

Saturday January 26 1980

THE TIMES

Tea with Mrs Bittell,
by V. S. Pritchett:
Saturday Review, page 8

US nuclear accident almost led to disaster

On the day when radioactive water was reported to be leaking from an earthquake-damaged nuclear research laboratory in California, a report yesterday disclosed that last year's accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station in Pennsylvania almost led to a disastrous "melt-down" of reactor fuel.

Meltdown hour away, inquiry team says

From David Cross

Washington, Jan 25

The accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania last year came within an ace of the disaster which supporters of the industry had predicted could never happen, the core melt-down, depicted in the film *The China Syndrome*.

Two hours after the accident began, a foreman noticed that a valve was leaking reactor coolant into the containment building. He blocked off the faulty valve.

"If that valve had remained open, our projections show that within 30 to 60 minutes a substantial amount of reactor fuel would have begun to melt down, requiring at least the precautionary evacuation of thousands of people living near the plant, and potentially serious public health and safety consequences for the immediate area."

This is the conclusion of an independent investigative team led by Mr Mitchell Rogovin, a Washington lawyer, and set up by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The team has just published an account of its findings and recommendations crammed with photographs, diagrams and even the occasional cartoon.

The official report on the incident was published last autumn by a special commission set up by President Carter and headed by Mr John Kennedy, president of Dartmouth College. The commission's findings concluded that although the

Earthquake damages nuclear laboratory

From Ivor Davis

Los Angeles, Jan 25

In the wake of yesterday's strong earthquake in northern California, radioactive water is leaking out of a 30,000 gallon storage tank at the rate of "several gallons an hour" at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, 40 miles from San Francisco.

But a spokesman at the nuclear research complex insisted today: "It is posing absolutely no health hazard to the public."

The earthquake struck with a rolling force that lasted almost 30 seconds shortly before midday, registering 5.5 on the Richter scale. The epicentre was about 12 miles north-west of Livermore, at the southern end of what is known as the Anochea fault, seismologists at the University of California in Berkeley reported.

Hundreds of people were evacuated from schools and buildings in several northern California communities and at least 24 injuries were reported, none of them serious.

However, there was serious damage to office buildings at the Lawrence Livermore to do with the big one."

Inquiry into cell deaths

A Commons select committee is to inquire into deaths in police custody. Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York and a member of the committee, said: "There is no intention of having a witch-hunt, but the police have been given enormous power in our democracy. The public have to be sure they are not breaking the rules."

Pensioners lose

A parliamentary dispute is expected over the Government's decision not to make good the shortfall in the November pensions increases, caused by under-estimating the rise in earnings last year. Further delay is likely in the committee stage of the Social Security Bill. Page 3

Mr Stonehouse's job

Mr John Stonehouse, the former MP and minister, met the press for the first time since his release from prison. He explained why he is an unpaid worker for a community group in the East End of London. Page 2

Sinai withdrawal

The Israeli Army handed over to Egypt the strategically most important part of Sinai on the eve of opening of normal relations between the two countries scheduled for today. Page 5

Clapham antique shop's £240 sale to a man looking for art to cheer up his flat may be worth £500,000

'Lost' bust by Bernini discovered

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A lost portrait bust of Pope Gregory XV by the great baroque sculptor Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini has come to light in London and has been lent to the Victoria and Albert Museum. It was purchased by Mr. Nichols Meinerszagen, aged 36, an antiquarian book-dealer, at a Clapham antique shop for £240, simply as a bust of a pope, never that its attribution to Bernini had been established. It could be worth as much as £500,000.

The Clapham dealer bought the bust at an auction run by Christie's South Kensington branch of the contents of Swindon Hall, near Loughborough, Leicestershire, on behalf of Lord Lanesborough. He paid £85. Christie's described it as the "bust of a pope".

While the notice beside the bust in the Victoria and Albert Museum identifies the Lanesborough provenance, Lord Lanesborough said yesterday that he had heard nothing about the discovery. "It's awful. I'm really shaken," he said. "My visitors will have something to say to Christie's."

The contents of Swindon Hall belonged to a family trust and were auctioned by Christie's in October 1978 for a total of £117,973. The bust had always stood in the dining room, according to Lord Lanesborough. "I imagine it would have been bought by my great-grandfather, the sixth earl," he said. He had bought many pieces of sculpture in Italy in the late nineteenth century.

The identity of the sculpture was discovered partly by Mr Meinerszagen, who is the nephew of Mr Daniel Meinerszagen, former chairman of Lazarus, and partly by the Victoria and Albert Museum.

He had been looking for some works of art to cheer up his sparsely furnished flat in south London when the sculpture caught his eye. He sensed its



The bust of Pope Gregory XV by Bernini.

sufficiently interested to go to see the bust. Both thought it likely that it was a Bernini. They asked to take it back to the museum, clean it and think about it.

Bernini is recorded as making three busts of Alessandro Ludovisi in 1621, the year he was elected to the Papacy as Gregory XV, one marble and two bronzes. A further bronze version was cast the next year for Cardinal Scipione Borghese.

The present whereabouts of the three bronzes, virtually identical to the marble bust, is known. But the marble has not been known about since the late seventeenth century.

Four killed in battle at Pretoria bank

From Eric Marsden

Cape Town, Jan 25

Three black terrorists and a woman who was among 25 hostages they were holding were killed today in a brief gun battle in a Pretoria bank that the gang had seized and held for six hours.

Fifteen other hostages, all black employees, and two policemen were injured in the battle. The dead woman was named as Miss Cindy Anderson of Pretoria.

In negotiations earlier, the terrorists had threatened to shoot the hostages if their demands were not met, including the release of a well-known prisoner held a long way from Pretoria. This was believed to be Mr Nelson Mandela, leader of the banned African National Congress, who is imprisoned on Robben Island, near Cape Town.

This is the first time that black terrorists have seized a building and taken hostages in South Africa although in recent months there have been several armed raids on police stations by terrorist gangs.

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HOME NEWS

Commons select committee to inquire into deaths of people in police custody

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

The newly appointed House of Commons' Home Affairs Select Committee is to inquire into deaths in police custody. There were 245 between 1970 and 1979, a figure issued by the Home Office after pressure from Labour MPs with Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, prominent among them. There have been protests about the death of Mr James Kelly after his arrest by Merseyside Police.

Mr Alexander Lyon, MP for Merseyside, a former Home Office minister in the Labour Government and senior Labour member of the committee, said on the *News at One* programme yesterday: "We want to know if the system is operating properly. Clearly the public have a doubt about that. There is no intention of having a witch-hunt, but the police have been given enormous power in our democracy." For that, he said, they had to be accountable.

"The public have to be sure they are not breaking the rules. They may not have done, but the public have the right to know."

Mr Lyon told me the committee would hold one meeting on the subject initially, to which it is asking Mr J. W. D. Crane, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, and Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions. The Home Office is also being asked to give evidence.

The committee wants to know what they are doing about allegations and what systems they are employing. Mr Lyon added that if turned out that further investigation was necessary the committee might well hold a full one. "We would have to see in the light of the evidence," he said.

The move by the select committee follows controversy in which police organizations have fiercely defended the service's

reputation. Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, attacked "a most unwarranted and unsubstantiated smear on the reputation of the police service" over the 245 deaths in police custody. Speaking to a federation meeting in Coventry, he rejected demands for a Government-appointed public inquiry.

He said: "There is nothing in the figures which even begins to justify the campaign which is now being waged in the press and which is about to be launched in Parliament."

"It is a vicious attack on the integrity of thousands of police officers who have had responsibility for making arrests and for the custody of prisoners."

Chief constables criticized: Some police chiefs "are beginning to think they are above the law". Mr Lyon said in the Commons yesterday (the Press Association reports).

"They must never be allowed to think that or that they are above the constraints of democratic control," he said.

Mr Lyon, in a short adjournment debate on the relationship between the Home Office and chief constables, said "disturbing reports" on Operation Countryman indicated "that police corruption is never going to be brought to light because of existing members of the force and some of those in high positions in the Metropolitan Police."

After saying that the central issue was lack of control over what police did, Mr Lyon said: "The weakness is accountability of chief officers."

"There is concern, especially in Lancashire, about the refusal of chief officers to discuss police activities in their areas," he said.

And he said that Mr John Alderson, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, and Mr James Anderton, the Chief Con-

Protests as peace man is expelled

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, personally took the decision to exclude from Britain yesterday Mr Ronald Chandra, president of the World Peace Council, on ground that it would not be "conducive to the public good".

As Mr Chandra left by air for Warsaw, there were strong protests by left-wing MPs and others in favour of his being allowed to attend a two-day weekend conference organized by the All Britain Peace Liaison Group.

Mr Chandra, who was detained overnight at Queen's Building, Heathrow, selected to go to Warsaw rather than Vienna, from where he had arrived at 3.30 pm on Thursday.

Mr Whitelaw used his power under the Immigration Act, 1971, to exclude Mr Chandra, an Indian citizen.

Mr Robert Cryer, Labour MP for Keighley, commented: "The Government has become so obsessed with events in Afghanistan that it is restricting fair and free comment on behalf of those who wish to see peace prevail rather than the cold war."

The regional committee of the TGWU declared the strike official but changed its mind two days later when Mr Robinson's own union, the AUEW, declined to take similar action.

TGWU disciplines members for not joining BL walkout

By Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

A second union is disciplining its members for refusing to join the "walk-off" official strike at BL's Longbridge car plant which failed to secure the reinstatement of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed convenor.

Last week the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) withdrew the credit-line of Mr Edward Howard, a shop steward, and fined him £10, despite the fact that the workers he represented had voted to cross picket lines.

The Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) is

taking similar action against an undisclosed number of its members at the same factory.

So far, five have appeared before branch committees to answer charges that they brought the union into disrepute by failing to obey an official strike call. They were fined the maximum of £10 each and a warning was issued about their future behaviour. More hearings are believed to be planned.

The regional committee of the TGWU declared the strike official but changed its mind two days later when Mr Robinson's own union, the AUEW, declined to take similar action.

Teachers in two areas threaten strikes over cuts

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Teachers in 30 schools in Avon are to go on strike during the next three weeks, starting from Tuesday, in protest against education cuts in the county. Teachers in Trafford, Greater Manchester, are also threatening to strike.

The National Union of Teachers decided yesterday to intensify its campaign against the cuts in Avon, where members have been refusing to teach lessons in accordance with new timetables since the beginning of the spring term.

Classes for pupils who are due to take CSE, O level or A level examinations this year will continue to be held by NUT members in church halls.

Council house repairs may go to contractors

Liberals on Liverpool City Council are to propose a motion at a meeting on Wednesday that repairs to council properties should be carried out by private contractors.

It is believed to be the first time that any large local authority in Britain has contemplated such a move. The Liberals hold 30 of the 99 seats and Mr Richard Kemp, Liberal housing spokesman said yesterday that he fully expected to obtain the support of the 23 Conservatives.

The Liberals say the housing department has nearly 50,000 repairs outstanding. Some 3,500 dwellings are vacant, almost a quarter of its housing stock is officially classified as hard to let and properties built only 10 years ago are already scheduled for demolition.

Scots to block conscription

From Our Correspondent Glasgow

The Scottish trade unions would not accept conscription as the way to deal with youth unemployment. Mr James Milne, general secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, said yesterday.

But his general council had

not yet discussed "the kite flown in the House of Commons on Thursday".

Mr Milne and delegates at the end of an all-day conference on unemployment and public sector cuts in Glasgow that was organized by the TUC's strike committee for a one-day strike on May 14, the TUC's national day of action.

Appeal by union seeking to sue 'The Times'

The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union is appealing against a decision by a High Court judge that it was not entitled to sue *The Times* for defamation.

Last December, Mr Justice O'Connor ruled on a pre-trial issue of law that a trade union could not bring an action for libel in its own name. The EETPU had sued Times Newspapers Ltd, Mr William Rees-Mogg, editor of *The Times*, and Mr Paul Routledge, the newspaper's Labour Editor, claiming that an article published in November, 1977, was defamatory.

The appeal is not expected to be heard for several months.

Mr Stonehouse in voluntary work

By Craig Seton

Mr John Stonehouse, the former MP and minister, met the press yesterday for the first time since his release from prison nearly six months ago. Asked why he is devoting much of his time as an unpaid volunteer with a community group in the East End of London.

Speaking at the tiny East Hoxton office of Community Links, Mr Stonehouse, aged 54, dressed in brown corduroy trousers, a white roll-neck sweater, his hair grey, spoke enthusiastically of his new work and, in passing, described how life had put him "through the mill".

It was explained that the press conference, to which photographers were not admitted, was to establish the truth of Mr Stonehouse's work and, it was hoped, to stop the press hounding him. This week his three children wrote to Fleet Street editors "begging" them to leave him alone after reports appeared about a new flat he is to share with Mrs Sheila Buckley.

Mr Stonehouse clearly has not fully recovered from the

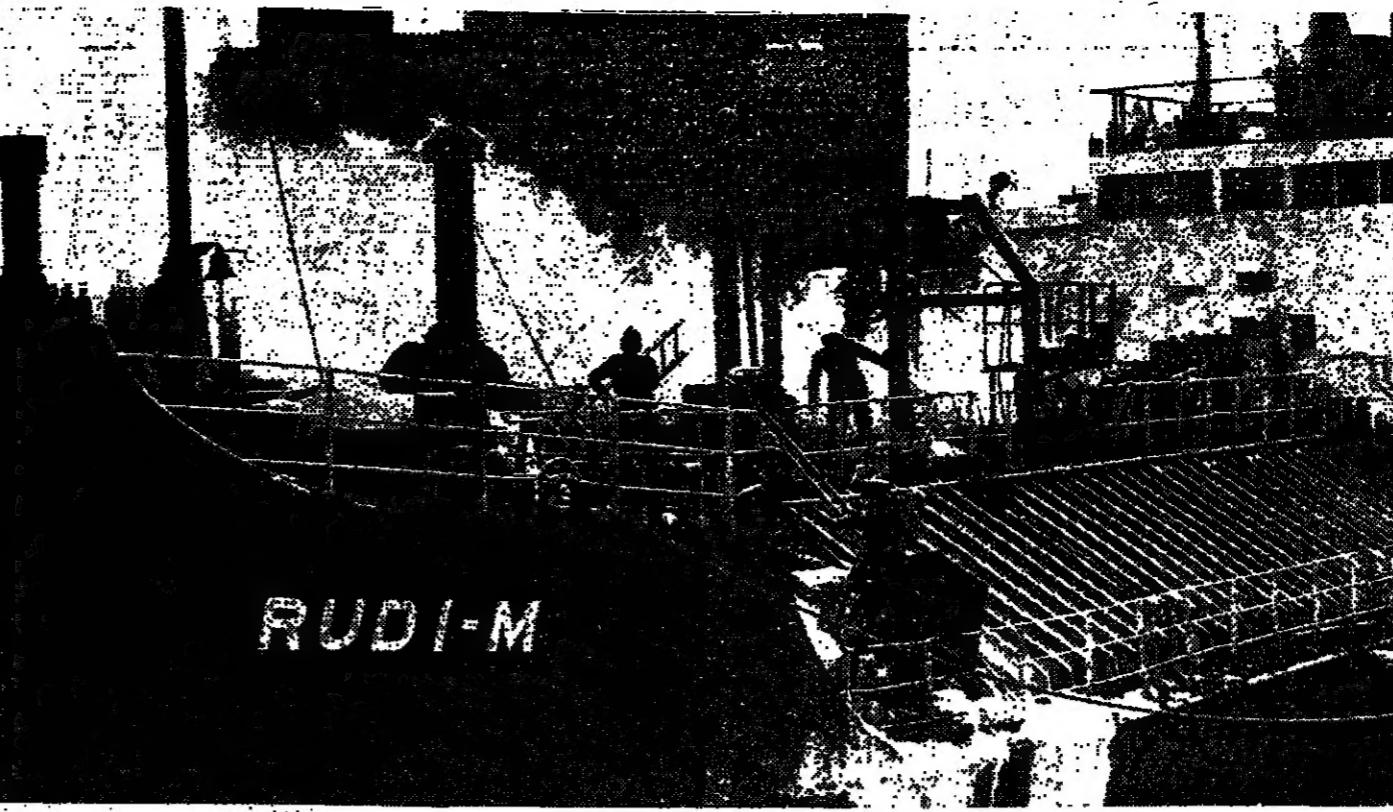
three heart attacks suffered in less than three years and the open heart surgery while he was serving seven years for theft, fraud and deception. He was released on parole last August after three years.

It was inevitable that Mr Stonehouse's voluntary effort would be compared with that of Mr John Profumo, who is also in social work in the east of London. "I deplore it," he said. "It is not necessary to draw any comparisons."

He said: "I was very pleased because their philosophy of working with minority communities in Newham is what I believe should be developed in other parts of the country, to help groups of individuals who have been the most traumatised."

Community Links, a charity founded in 1977, helped children and young people, the housebound, disabled people and one-parent families, among others, he said. Mr Stonehouse works with five full-time workers and other volunteers offering advice and practical help, calling on houses collecting donations or useful items which can be passed to those who need them.

Mr Stonehouse said he



Photograph by David Jones

Fireman killed in ship: A fireman plunged to his death in the burning hold of this ship yesterday, as he and 39 colleagues fought a fire in the vessel that lasted for hours. Four firemen who tried to rescue him were taken to hospital and two of them were

The fire was in the 800 ton tanker Rudi-M, which was being refitted at Regent's Canal Dock, Poplar, east London. Glass fibre and other materials used in refitting produced fumes and extreme heat, a fire brigade official said.

"We are not sure what happened,

but one fireman either fell into the hold or there was a partial collapse", he said.

The man who died was temporary leading fireman Stephen Maynard, aged 26, of Lichfield Road, East Ham, London. He was married.

Goodbye to the chip's promise of culture

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster

The silicon chip has been blamed for many things, but until yesterday in the House of Commons it had escaped responsibility for hooligans.

Indeed, by the end of a debate lasting most of the day on the development of more leisure services for the British people, there must have been few of the nation's ills that were not placed fairly and squarely on the chip's prying shoulders.

Mr James Callaghan, back-bench Labour MP for Middlesbrough and Prestwich, and the Leader of the Opposition, introduced a massive motion on leisure which some Tory MPs likened rather unkindly to one of the wilder fantasies of Mr Bernard Levin or to the scenario for a Monty Python spectacular.

Mr Callaghan had apparently driven a Toyota car factory in Japan run entirely by silicon chips and four young men who press buttons. The rest of the workforce was out and about at leisure.

There was no doubt much worthy stuff somewhere in the thinking of Mr Callaghan, but he left the House with the impression that all that was needed to resolve our unemployment problems was to retire everyone at about 50 years of age so that they could spend the rest of their lives camping about in brass bands.

Apparently lurking beneath the surface of every blast-furnace man or boilermaker, lies a Richard Burton waiting for the silicon chip revolution to give him enough spare time to burst upon an astonished nation.

The trade union movement was deeply concerned at the cuts in the Arts Council's budget. Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, said in tones implying that that must be the one subject regularly brought up by Mr Len Murray at every general council meeting of the TUC. Trade unions, he suggested, should be fighting for the nation's artistic and cultural life.

All fine, stirring stuff, but there was evidence that some of the more philistine Tories were not all that keen on worker participation in the arts. In any case, Mr John Page, Conservative MP for Harrow West, suggested there was perhaps enough self-enforced leisure going on already in areas such as the steel industry, without the silicon chip and Mr Callaghan encouraging more.

Some of those MPs rapidly gained middle-age spreads were not all that sure of the virtues of exchanging boardroom lunches for more cultural activities at the tender age of 50.

Before thinking of pleasure-pieces for the millions, entertainment managers and ministers for self-indulgence, it might be worthwhile doing some serious thinking about raising the money to enable those delights to come about. Mr Page suggested.

But all was not lost for Mr Callaghan. Even before the debate began it was pointed out by Mr Michael English, Westminster's resident silicon chip, and Labour MP for Nottingham, that staff in some departments of the Commons were already taking more time off. He had been unable to get a cup of coffee before the deliberation on leisure began.

More flying pickets in S Yorkshire

From Nicholas Timmins Rotherham

Steel strike leaders in south Yorkshire plan to increase the number of flying pickets next week, once the private sector has joined the strike. The union and the employers believe that most private-sector steel workers in the area will join the strike, however reluctantly.

Feeling among the private steelworkers against the strike call is strong, even among union officials. Mr Michael Adams, secretary of the private-sector joint branch in Sheffield, said: "Our fear is that if we are fetched out, there is going to be a lot of jobs lost in the private sector. At the end of the day, when we have won the battle for the (the BSC men) they will say: 'Thanks very much, go back to work and pick up the pieces. But some of the pieces will be missing.'

If the private sector does join the strike—and many pickets believe there will be trouble on the picket-offs with smart quickly. Mr Nicholas Kemp, director of the Engineering Employers' Association in Sheffield, said that Firth Brown, the largest private-sector steel workers in the area, will join the strike, however reluctantly.

Steel workers in south Yorkshire feel they have been more active than strikers elsewhere. Their area's strike committee has sent scouping parties to the Medway ports and the smaller East Anglia ports and strike leaders say they will pay increasing attention to stockholders in the Midlands and Manchester areas.

Contact has been made with

concerners at Ford's works in Dagenham and works and with

members of the Transport and General Workers' Union at

the strike—and many pickets believe there will be trouble on the picket-offs with smart quickly.

Mr Tom Barnsfield, a member of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation executive, said: "They have told us that once we give them an official letter from our headquarters, which is being done, and once we have a token picket down there, no steel will move through."

Early in the dispute the steelworkers took advice from Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, and the miners have provided some office space and a phone call collection.

But at many of the 100-plus stockholders and private companies that have been picketed, steel is still moving.

Pickets increased: Three hundred and twenty extra pickets are being drafted into the West Midlands tomorrow and on Monday, to intensify the blockade of steel stockholders

Continued from page 1

surprisingly because as we understand it there will be no unions represented at those talks who are out on strike in support of the ISTC and the NUB.

But on the basis of half a lost day better than none, the BSC negotiators approach tomorrow's talks with cautious optimism. During yesterday's discussions the BSC team underlined once again that the corporation problems with the corporation faced and that the union leaders were told that there was no question of the BSC being able to offer anything approaching the 20 per cent rise which rank and file members now aspire to.

The BSC is insistent that there can be no relaxation of the position which it has adopted throughout the negotiations and that the next round of talks will be resolved through a genuinely self-financing deal.

BSC negotiators also emphasized that agreement on productivity must be backed up with an enabling agreement

that should all normal outlets be blocked".

He has already received 30 offers of steel amounting to 500 tons, but so far only four requests for help.

"Everyone seems to be all right at the moment, but in a fortnight it might be a very different matter," he said.

His members, about half of whom have fewer than 20 employees, will be badly affected if steelworkers go on strike in the private sector. "Then there could be a flood of requests", he said.

All kinds of steel have been made available. One had telephoned with an offer of 50 tons from a building site he had just bought.

The idea is now spreading to the 500 other firms in the association's 10 regions, in particular the eastern, north-west and Glasgow regions.

Some of those MPs rapidly gained middle-age spreads were not all that sure of the virtues of exchanging boardroom lunches for more cultural activities at the tender age of 50.

Before thinking of pleasure-pieces for the millions, entertainment managers and ministers for self-indulgence, it might be worthwhile doing some serious thinking about raising the money to enable those delights to come about. Mr Page suggested.

But all was not lost for Mr Callaghan. Even before the debate began it was pointed out by Mr Michael English, Westminster's resident silicon chip, and Labour MP for Nottingham, that staff in some departments of the Commons were already taking more time off. He had been unable to get a cup of coffee before the deliberation on leisure began.

HOME NEWS

Councils offered freer hand in spending by revised local Bill

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Local Government, Planning and Land (No 2) Bill was published yesterday in its new slim form, containing a modest 149 clauses compared with its predecessor, the 246-clause version of last December.

It demonstrates, perhaps, the effectiveness of the Government's desire to cut waste, for it includes all the vital measures on local authority spending, with some changes of emphasis, in a significantly shorter Bill.

The Government, and more particularly the ministers responsible for local government, believe it provides an attractive package for local authorities, giving them more freedom within a framework than before.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, have emphasized their intention to free councils from central control.

Mr King has described the Bill as a package which depends on trust in local authorities, and because that involves some risks if that trust is abused, the Government retains fall-back powers to control or penalize any such abuse.

Local government has not been convinced of the arguments, and is united in opposing the proposals for the new block grant system. Concessions on proposed controls on capital spending have gone some way to answer local criticism, but central and local government seem to be set for a bitter battle over the new few months.

Sir Horace Cutler, leader of the Greater London Council, added his condemnation of the proposals to those of the local authority associations yesterday. Although he was glad about the changes, he said, "I am very sorry indeed that the total package of controls will still put local authorities in a straitjacket".

"We will still be within tight ministerial control and the new

Whitehall efficiency talks will study costs

By Peter Heansey

The Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service will open a dialogue on Whitehall efficiency with the Civil Service Department next Monday. The inquiry will be completed by March, when the committee will transfer its attention to the Treasury after the White Paper on public expenditure and the Budget.

The witnesses to be called on Monday are Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, and two officials, Mr Richard Wilding and Mr Jonathan Charkham, Sir Derek Rayner, the Prime Minister's adviser on the elimination of waste, and leaders of the Civil Service unions, will be called to give evidence later.

The committee's main interests are progress in the reduction of the size and cost of the Civil Service, and the appointment of retired civil servants to posts in business and banking. They will also examine the scrutiny programmes being conducted on a departmental basis by Sir Derek Rayner.

The committee is chaired by Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton, and served by a full-time clerk, Mr David Hubbard, a former deputy secretary at the Department of Trade. The appointment of a number of part-time advisers has begun; the first to be announced are Dr Alan Budd, of the London Business School, and Mr John Kay, of the Institute of Fiscal Studies.

The block grant system is central to the Bill. It is designed to relate each council's entitlement more closely to its fixed "standard expenditure" so that any authority spending significantly above that level will have to bear an increasing proportion of the burden itself.

Local government protests against proposals for capital spending, divided into five main blocks, convinced the Government that the controls would be too tight. Under the new clauses, councils will have more freedom to spend according to their own priorities within an overall allocation.

In other ways, the Bill resembles its former self, withdrawn from the House of Lords after Labour opposition. The provisions remove or relax a number of ministerial controls



Nicola Styles, aged five, outside Parliament yesterday in protest over the proposed closure of Shebbury School, Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Photograph by David Jones

Energy plans 'must be disclosed'

By Our Planning Reporter

The Government must "come clean" about its energy proposals, Mr Robin Grove-White, assistant secretary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said yesterday.

It says it expects to give the go-ahead for 10 nuclear power stations over the next 12 years", he pointed out. "But its own energy forecasts suggest that the total will be as high as 20.

"These are huge and intrusive developments. They will all require sites, rural sites.

Mr Grove-White, who was addressing a conference in London on energy and the environment, organized by the Royal Institution of Chartered Sur-

veyors and the Professional Institutions Council for Conservation, observed that energy strategy would have an increasing impact on the environment. New coal mines, gasification plants, upland storage schemes and fast breeder reactors would make drastic intrusions into the countryside.

"But where in rural England will they go?" he asked. "Which estuaries and river banks will be spoilt? Across which landscapes will the pylons march? Where can so many huge power stations with their power lines and cooling towers be sited?

"The days are past when such matters could be treated

as a mere afterthought to the making of energy policy", he continued. "We have a right to know the full environmental implications."

Coincidentally *The Architects' Journal* devotes more than two thirds of this week's issue to the same subject. It points out that a report last year by the multi-institutional Watt Committee on Energy suggested that as many as 200 nuclear power stations might be required by the year 2025.

The journal includes a map of Britain and a panel of documents representing the supposedly required power stations.

"Where", it asks, "would you put them?"

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WEST EUROPE

Outcry in France over teachers' pamphlet defending soft drugs

From Charles Hargrove

dominated SGEM-CFDT teachers' union. Entitled "Struggle, not moralizing", it suggested that action that attempted to combat all addiction should be made between hard and soft drugs. It noted that in Europe, the consumption of soft drugs was not a "natural social phenomenon", and that people were far more addicted to lethal drugs like tobacco, spirits, and tranquilizers.

The facts are there and beyond dispute. Mme Monique Pelleter, the Minister for Family Affairs, told the Cabinet a few months ago that deaths from overdose had risen sharply in the past three years. Of 40,000 known drug addicts in France, 85 per cent are young people between the ages of 15 and 25.

The Minister of Education issued in October a solemn appeal to parents and teachers to cooperate with the police and the judicial authorities in tracking down drug dealers, propagandists and addicts.

It is against this background that a pamphlet distributed by some teachers at a couple of lycées in the Val de Marne department, south-east of Paris, in December, has provoked an uproar of national proportions and prompted sharp reactions by three members of the Government.

The Minister of Education on Wednesday called upon all educators to take an unequivocal stand against drugs. He said he would not hesitate to use all the weapons provided by law, and ordered an administrative inquiry at both lycées.

The Minister of Health said that the public prosecutor's office had taken up the matter, and, if the facts were proven, sanctions would be taken.

The Minister of Justice said yesterday: "I do not think it is the role of educators to incite young people to take drugs, even soft ones, for these often lead to hard ones."

It all started, strangely enough, with the distribution at one of the incriminated lycées of a violent condemnation of drug addiction by the Communist youth movement. The pamphlet, entitled "Struggle, not drugs", said: "It is high time to state very loud how thoroughly Communists are opposed to drugs... Drugs are synonymous not of happiness but of unhappiness, not of revolution but of resignation... The great bourgeoisie has understood that the development of drug consumption meant passive acceptance of its social order."

This broadside provoked the pamphlet which is widely incriminated as an apologia and incitement to drug addiction by members of the Socialist

EEC butter sales to Russians defended

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Jan 25—Despite anger over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and pressure from the United States for tougher trade sanctions against the Russians, the EEC may sell between 60,000 and 80,000 tonnes of surplus butter to the Soviet Union this year.

This was the estimate offered today by Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, at a press conference in West Berlin where he was attending the annual West German "Green Week" agricultural fair.

Mr Gundelach argued that this represented the "normal level" of butter sales to the Soviet Union and would be in line with the decision of EEC foreign ministers earlier this month that "traditional trade flows" with the Soviet Union should be maintained.

L'Humanité, the Communist Party organ, described the pamphlet as a "hodge-podge of half truths" in which "Heroin, this dreadful evil, is put in a cupboard alongside aniseette (the liqueur)".

Political antagonism underlies the controversy to some extent. The Communists have not been slow in using this new stick with which to beat the Socialists and their trade union allies who are gaining ground in the Val de Marne area.

The local branch of the union rallied to the side of the incriminated teachers, and even went so far as to encourage wider distribution of the controversial pamphlet. It argued that the teachers had done nothing other than raise a serious problem against which they came up every day.

Over and beyond the rather trivial political aspects of the controversy, the fact remains that drug addiction among young people is regarded by all concerned with education, government, educators and parents, as a serious new challenge to the health of the nation.

An overwhelming majority reject the suggestion that a start could be made in coming to grips with it by liberalizing the regulations on soft drugs.

"If soft drugs are really inoffensive why should medical control of their use be necessary," the Minister of Education asks today in an interview to *Le Monde*.

Dr Claude Olivenstein, one of the acknowledged French authorities on drug addiction, said recently that youths could be protected against drugs. But this must be discussed without surrendering to a climate of hysteria.

Mr Gundelach also disclosed in Berlin that the EEC will probably export between 200,000 and 300,000 tonnes of butter to the Soviet Union later this year. At present all cereals exports to the Soviet Union are suspended.

Barley exports of this size would be in line with trade in previous years and with the EEC's commitment not to expand its sales to fill the gap left in Russian supplies by the American embargo on 17 million tonnes of feed grain.

In Brussels Mr Luther Hodges, the United States Deputy Secretary for Commerce, said after talks with EEC officials that America would be giving its European allies precise details, within three to five weeks, of the action it would like to see them take to restrict exports of high technology to the Soviet Union.

New Belgian coalition wins approval for its policy

Brussels, Jan 25.—The new coalition Government of Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, won a confidence vote in Parliament last night.

Deputies voted 119 to 52 with eight abstentions in favour of his policy statement made after he reshuffled his centre-left coalition, reduced from five to four parties.

The main change in the

Lisbon revokes treaty with Soviet Union

From Our Correspondent

Lisbon, Jan 25

The Portuguese Government has introduced restrictions on official visits and political contacts between Portugal and the Soviet Union. Dr Diogo Freitas de Amorim, the Foreign Affairs Minister, said on January 15 that Portugal's relations with the Soviet Union would be revised.

The Government also announced yesterday that Portugal is to revoke a treaty of cultural and scientific cooperation with the Soviet Union while a projected fishing agreement will not now be signed.

Although the Government's attitude in the Soviet Union seems to have public approval, it has been pointed out that the measures considered might be a two-edged sword. The Soviet Union is the main buyer from the Portuguese shoe industry, and a large ship building order has been placed here by the Russians.

Smog smothers Berlin for Green Week

From Our Correspondent

Berlin, Jan 25

Radio stations and police cars equipped with loudspeakers sounded a smog alarm in Berlin today, for the second day running. Berliners were asked to use public transport instead of private cars, to turn down heating systems and, if possible, stay at home.

Car drivers arriving in the city were given instructions on the varying degrees of restrictions depending on the poisonous concentration of sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide in the air. When it reaches three times the amount of what is considered dangerous (0.8 mg of sulphur dioxide and 30 mg of carbon monoxide a cubic metre), all private driving is banned and factories have to cut or stop production temporarily.

It was the third day of smog and coincided with the opening of the city's international agricultural fair, Green Week.

Speculation over Gaullist ex-Premier's Elysée visit

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Jan 25

M. Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist party and Mayor of Paris, was entertained yesterday at the Elysée Palace by President Giscard d'Estaing, and the news sent all Paris buzzing with speculation.

The invitation was announced as a strictly private one—M. Chirac was not being received as his party's leader or as Mayor. But this is a country where politics have been dominated for the past four years by the personal antagonism between President Giscard and his luncheon guest.

Today was the first time the two men had met since November 1978, when the Mayor of Paris called to talk about his new plan for developing Les Halles, site of the former central markets. More important, M. Marchais, head of the Communist Party, felt he could not refuse the invitation to send someone to talk about the international situation with the Foreign Minister and, if need be, with the President.

From the President's point of view, it was the right moment for a meeting with M. Chirac.

The emergency session of Parliament is over. The budget has been voted at last and the dust has settled after the last demonstrations of sterile Gaullist hostility towards the Government, which did not enhance the party's standing.

The Gaullists have lost ground steadily and M. Chirac is considered, in well-informed circles close to the Presidency, as being almost in a political dead-end. As things are at present, warning an economic catastrophe, he has no alternative of defeating M. Giscard in the presidential elections next year.

This does not mean he will not stand as a candidate. He has not yet made up his mind, although he may disclose his intentions more clearly at his press conference on February 12.

But it does mean he is probably more amenable to some sort of non-aggression pact or gentleman's agreement to ensure a smoother working arrangement between the two Government majority parties than there was last summer and a consequent concentration of effort on fighting the opposition.

Such a hint was given yesterday by M. Claude Lallier, leader of the Gaullist parliamentary party, after a meeting to take stock of the political situation.

He added that there was no question, for the time being, of the Gaullists voting for a motion censuring the Government.

Sales of cognac set a record

Paris, Jan 25—Cognac sales last year rose by 15 million bottles to a record of more than 151 million. The Cognac Committee announced today. The latest harvest of white wine used for cognac was a record

OVERSEAS



A determined band of Afghan tribesmen, armed with assorted weapons, ready for action against the Soviet-backed regime.

Kabul uses Tarakki death to justify coup

From Ian Murray

Kabul, Jan 25

Details of the way in which former President Noor Muhammad Tarakki is supposed to have died are being published. This is part of the new Afghan regime's campaign to discredit President Hafizullah Amin, who was toppled from power at the time of the Soviet invasion of the country last month.

The campaign seems to be aimed at convincing everyone in Afghanistan that Mr Amin was a murderous "hangman" intent on destroying the people's revolution and imposing a Muslim republic with the help of "imperialist America" aid.

At the same time Mr Tarakki is being consistently put forward as a martyr, who was disposed of because he represented a threat to these "imperialist" designs.

The details of his death come from what is said to be a tape recording of a confession made by Lieutenant Muhammad Ishaq, head of the patrol group of the People's House Guards.

The lieutenant makes the confession because he "was forced to sign" it, according to these sources.

The confessions are continuing to receive much prominence in papers and in radio news bulletins, showing that the new regime is still far from confident about the support it can rely on from the people.

There seems little doubt by now that under Mr Amin many atrocities were committed, but significantly there seems little joy on the part of the people

in having got rid of such a tyrant.

It seems impossible to find any one other than existing Government officials who have anything but a bad word to say for the Russians. Taxi drivers refuse to stop outside the Soviet Embassy if asked to call there, insisting that passengers walk a hundred yards or so to the well-protected building.

News of anything happening outside Kabul is hard to discover and all foreigners are becoming increasingly restricted inside the capital. Press passes are once again being issued, but journalists are being told that they will in future have to travel in conducted groups.

So far as a journalist appears to have succeeded in getting through all the Soviet road blocks on the road north through the Salang Pass, a Spaniard who grew his beard for three days and, with his swarthy skin, was able to escape detection at the numerous checkpoints.

The trip took him two days and, during that time on the road he saw one ambush and two Afghan attacks on what seemed to be rebel positions some distance from the road. Near Mazari Sharif he saw hundreds of Soviet tanks drawn up in the fields. In the mountains

if the Russians are to mount a full scale attack, however, they will need to be able to count on much more support from the people of Afghanistan than they can claim at the moment.

The test will come when the snows melt making it possible for the Soviet Army to exploit its superior numbers and weaponry to the full, in attacks to clear the rebels from their mountain strongholds.

If the Russians are to mount a full scale attack, however, they will need to be able to count on much more support from the people of Afghanistan than they can claim at the moment.

The campaign to denounce Mr Amin is part of the attempt to make the people grateful to the Russians for freeing them from him.

Bani-Sadr leads in Iran's presidential poll

Atlanta, Georgia, Jan 25—

Two hijackers

believed to be

armed and claiming to be Black

Muslims

hijacked a Delta Air

Lines jet carrying 65 people to

Cuba early today. The aircraft,

flying from Atlanta to New

York was forced to fly to

Havana where the hijackers

demanded another airliner to

take them to Iran.

A State Department spokes-

man said in Washington that

the hijackers asked the Cuban

authorities to provide them

with an aircraft to Tehran, but

the Cubans refused.

Delta, a wide-bodied Lockheed L 1011, was not equipped to cross the ocean.

The Soviet decision to exile Dr Andrei Sakharov tipped the

Dutch political scales in favour

of a boycott.

Previously political

opposition in the Netherlands

favoured participation in the

Games to raise the issue of

human rights in Moscow.

Bon: Talks lasting 90 minutes

between

Dietrich Genscher, the West

German Foreign Minister

and Mr Vladimir Semenov, the

Soviet Ambassador.

Herr Genscher said the Russians

should withdraw from

Afghanistan and

"create the right atmosphere"

for all nations to take part in

the Games.

Paris: Jean-Paul Sartre, the

philosopher, today called for a

boycott of the Games.

Mr Sartre, now half-blind and

ailing, made a rare public state-

ment, calling the boycott "a

necessary sanction against the

Soviet Union for its action

against the people of

Iran.

London: Mr Joshua Nkomo

has also called for a

boycott of the Games.

London: The British Olympic

Committee has also called for

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OVERSEAS

Israelis hand back to Egypt strategic part of Sinai desert

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Jan 25

The formal opening of normal relations between Israel and Egypt is scheduled for tomorrow amid continuing international doubts about the future course of the fragile Middle East peace process.

More symbolic than practical in its early stages, the normalization is due to result immediately in the ending of Egypt's 10-year Arab boycott. In the Arab boycott Israel and its occupying forces in the Sinai desert with their greatest strategic significance gives Egypt control of two thirds of the Sinai peninsula with the rest due to return in April, 1982.

Under the terms of an agreement reached only 24 hours before the hand-over ceremony, the temporary 250-mile border, which now stretches from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, will be policed by joint Egyptian and Israeli patrols. These will be reinforced by increased American surveillance of the highly sensitive region.

El Meliz, Sinai, Jan 25.—Brigadier General Abd-Rab Nabi Hafez, the Egyptian director of military operations, raised the Egyptian flag here today as the Israeli flag was lowered.

By tonight, uncertainty still surrounded some key elements of the normalization procedure. Israeli officials had no indication when an Egyptian diplomatic mission would be arriving to match that leaving for Cairo on Monday or when regular flights would begin between the two countries.

In spite of recent denials by President Sadat, most Israeli politicians remain convinced that the Egyptian Government intends to link the pace of normalization directly with the rate of progress on Palestinian autonomy.

Diplomatic observers are convinced that the focus of the peace process will turn to the Palestinian issue, a delicate topic on which there are wide differences between the two countries. This view was reinforced yesterday when General Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Defence Minister, told a rally in Cairo: "Sinai is returned to us now and soon Palestine will be returned to its people."

One of the first results of normalization will be to emphasize Egypt's isolation from the rest of the Arab world. There will be protest demonstrations in many of the hard-line states.

Greek MPs rally to ex-King's defence

From Mario Modiano
Athens, Jan 25

An overnight wrangle in Parliament about King Constantine's estates in Greece has raised a sudden interest in the former royal family at a time of increasing speculation here about the next Greek head of state.

The government majority in Parliament defeated an opposition amendment to a Bill on absentee landowners, that would have authorized the state to confiscate the property of the royal family in Greece in order to distribute it to landless peasants.

Perhaps even more important than the rejection is the fact that the debate gave several deputies of the ruling New Democracy party the chance to vent monarchist feelings five years after the monarchy was abolished in a referendum.

The conservative press published long accounts of the parliamentary tussle under banner headlines together with a ministerial declaration that the members of the deposed royal family were Greek citizens, entitled to own property, who may, one day, if they wish, return and settle anywhere in Greece.

Far from being neglected, the minister went on, the estates were managed quite profitably by a state-appointed board, and had yielded taxes of £500,000 last year.

If these estates were expropriated, the compensation for Tatoi alone could be in the range of £500m.

The most vigorous defence of the monarchy came from Mr Isaac Lavrentidis, second Deputy Speaker of Parliament, who was in the chair. He asked to be relieved in order to answer opposition allegations that former King Constantine, who now lives with his family in England, had collaborated with the military junta.

Mr Lavrentidis said: "If there is one man who really resisted (the junta), that was Constantine, the former King."

He risked his throne, the monarchy, everything in order to keep true to his constitutional oath". He was referring to the King's counter coup eight months after the colonels' one in 1967, which led to his exile.

This coincided with the conspicuous publication of a photograph showing Mr George Rallis, the Foreign Minister, just back from a visit to Madrid, kissing the hand of Queen Sofia of Spain, who is the sister of King Constantine. Mr Rallis has been known as a royalist.

All this is set against a background of speculation about the election of the next President of the Republic by the Parliament in April or May.

The only obvious candidate is Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, who told his party's parliamentary group

Ban after death in train fire

Peking, Jan 25.—After 20 people were killed or injured in a fire on a Chinese train early this week in Zhejiang, Hunan Province, the Railways Ministry is to ban passengers from carrying combustibles or explosives like the New China news agency reported.

Since the start of the year there have been six explosions on Chinese trains or at stations, in one, 44,000 firecrackers for a spring festival blew up, injuring 15 people.

Third World industrialization plans attacked

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Jan 25

Britain and the United States today both mounted attacks at a United Nations conference here on the setting of targets by developing countries for achieving industrialization.

They told such countries that it would be better to concentrate on reviving global prosperity through the world's existing open market system.

Speaking at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization conference, the British and American chief delegates emphasized the role of private enterprise and the private enterprise sector for development.

Regardless of their own economic systems, many developing countries at the conference have viewed the public sector as best able to help build up the infrastructure for industrialization among

Fears of private armies advancing on capital where gunfire can be heard every night

From Charles Harrison
Kampala

This weekend, and these will be matched by a commercial strike throughout the occupied territories.

The final step on the path to normalization was made at a low-key ceremony today when the Israeli Army formally handed back to Egypt the section of the Sinai desert with its greatest strategic significance.

This gives Egypt control of two thirds of the Sinai peninsula with the rest due to return in April, 1982.

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SPORT

Rugby Union

Moseley will find the going hard at Wigton

By Peter West

The first round of the John Player Cup usually produces an up-and-down, up-and-down, wonder which, if any, of the bigger fry may bite the dust against less exalted opposition as 15 of the 16 ties are due, weather permitting, for completion this afternoon.

With respect to Bournemouth, one cannot fancy their chances, even with home advantage, against Bristol. The same applies to Matsos, facing London Scottish at the Athletic Ground, and to Marlow, whose visit to Bath looks a most daunting proposition.

Maidstone, taking on London Irish at Sunbury, remember stretching the same opposition into injury-time in a final match some years ago, but now seem likely to be the way of all flesh.

In the far north, however, Moseley, last season's runners-up (who are short of midweek play, their last two games having been against the weather) look to have a hard and difficult game against Wigton, the Cumbrian cup holders. Wigton beat Sale 24-7 in a qualifying round, and that is an indication of score to be

expected. The holders, Leicester, who hope to be at full strength for the first time since the Barbarians encounter last month, ought to take a bit of much all-round fire. For one, Oldham's Old Road in perhaps the most attractive match of the day. Orwell, with a 100 per cent record in northern merit table games, have a skilful back division including England's John Castle, but Leicester's forward strength and know-how may be decisive.

There are two northern derbies, Hartlepool Rovers v Gosforth, and Liverpool v Waterloo. Gosforth are finding momentum again so it may be that the two sides will be drawn to better use. Barnsley will have the same ambitions for his Fylde team, long unbeaten at home, when they entertain a Coventry side more than half changed by electoral axes after defeat last week.

Nottingham have now won against Northumbria at Franklin's Gardens in their defence of a sturdy and they will not be easily put down by a club that has experienced one or two nasty shocks in this competition. There will be another hard game at Goldington Road, where Bedford, facing Warrington, the Youngs at scrum half but are without the injured wing, Denning.

London Welsh, having run in six ties against Bath the other day, should be in good heart at Weston-super-Mare. Roslyn Park, the only way London's most successful representatives in this kind of rugby, met Exeter in the final Player for the third time in four occasions. It was close at Exeter last year, the Park winning 7-5.

Six mixed-race sides on Lions itinerary

By Peter West

Six of the 18 matches to be played by the British Lions on their tour of South Africa this summer will be against black or coloured teams, or a mixture of all races in the republic. The SA Rugby Association (Leopards) and the SA Rugby Football Federation (Proteas) figure on the itinerary, published yesterday, just as they did for the Lions' tour in 1970. But the 1980 Lions will also play four invitation sides with the broader possible base.

The tour, lasting just over two months and finishing a week before the start of the Olympic Games in Moscow, will begin with three matches on the coastal belt at Port Elizabeth, East London and Durban. The Lions will then move to their next visit, Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein, before coming down to Cape Town for the first of the four internationals, on May 31.

After that they will be at altitude again for matches at Windhoek, Johannesburg, Salisbury (against Rhodesia), Bloemfontein (second), Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria before going down to the coast once more for the third international at Port Elizabeth. Then two games at sea level, including that against Western Province in Cape Town, will precede a final climb through Kimberley to the venue for the last international, Port Elizabeth.

A six-month season campaigner on rugby tours in South Africa was heard to observe yesterday that it was the best itinerary the Lions had ever been offered. The 1974 tour comprised 22 games (21 of which were won) and lasted for almost three months.

ITINERARY: Jan. 10: Eastern Province v. Elizabeth 14-12. SA Rugby Association (East London): 17. Natal (Durban): 18. SA Rugby Association (Port Elizabeth): 24. Orange Free State (Bloemfontein): 25. Cape Town: 26. First Test: Cape Town: June 1-3. SA v. Rhodesia (Johannesburg): 10. Rhodesia (Sault): 11-12. Junior Springboks (Johannesburg): 21. Northern Transvaal (Pretoria): 22. SA Barbarians (Durban): 5. July 2: SA Barbarians (Durban): 8. Western Province (Cape Town): 12. Guguletu West (Kimberley): 13.

Cricket

New South Wales will test Boycott's injury

Sydney, Jan 25.—Geoff Boycott tried out his injured finger on Sunday in England's three-day match against New South Wales that should determine if he is fit for the third Test. Boycott has been troubled by the injury to the knuckle of his little finger for three weeks and has since played, while not 100 per cent fit.

The selectors decided they break after the West Indies won the one-day final in two matches, has allowed Boycott to rest the hand. England's selectors considered leaving him out of Sydney's team in Canberra to allow the injury further time to heal, but Boycott judged he needed the practice more for the third Test. The selectors hope that if Boycott does well in Canberra it will restore his confidence. The state team includes Geoff Lawson, a fast bowler on the fringe of Test selection, who last year unleashed bumpers at Boycott in the first Test at Arundel. The young management will be eager to see batsmen like David Gower, Wayne Larkins and Derek Randall, who have been out of

Football

Forest hope for 'no change' result

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent
Fear for the future and carefree enjoyment of the present are interwoven in a combination that is the fourth round of the FA Cup. For those first division clubs seemingly beyond reach of the championship it offers the last chance to salvage something from the season, but for the small fry there is a glorious beacon with the possibility of another before Lent.

Four first division clubs are bound to be drummed out in the fourth round, and one being either Nottingham Forest, the European champions, or Liverpool, who meet each other for the second time this week at the City Ground. But there is no terrible irony in being expelled in such difficult circumstances.

Those risking particularly harsh humiliation are Everton, at home to Wigan, who beat Chelsea in the third round, and, like Wigan, play Halifax Town, visitors over Manchester City; Aston Villa, taking their valuable, improving team to Cambridge, the smallest ground in the league; and Tonbridge Hayes, away to Swindon, the team who have beaten three other first division clubs this season.

Champions of this season's far outsiders are Harlow Town, last of the non-league challengers, a group of part-timers well aware of the value of their opponents. Watford, who take all of the risks at Vicarage Road this afternoon. If Watford win the cry will be "bad luck Harlow" and if they lose it will be "well done Harlow". That is the cruel charm of the cup and Watford have had the share of being the underdogs.

Harlow's hopes could rest more on Watford's poor scoring record than on their own attacking power. A draw would take Watford to the Harlow ground, where Leicester City lost a replay earlier this month. Hoping to avoid that, Watford will be in the battle last season's leading scorer Jenkins, who has just recovered from breaking his leg. But if the pitch is too firm, the partnership of Jenkins and Bissell will not be reassembled.

A neutral but not unsympathetic ear will listen for Harlow's team, which will be the record breakers.

Record breaker: Today's tie will be Ian Callaghan's 85th.



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Even John Bond, the Norwich manager, has tipped Ipswich as the team to beat, while his own side go to Wolverhampton, where there is a need for the home side to forget the 1-0 FA Cup defeat at Swindon. It would be surprising if Ipswich failed at Bristol City, where they won 3-0 last Saturday.

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Another fourth division team, Harlow, will play the right to be taken seriously, a probable member of the last 16 when beating Manchester City. Their task today in a match against Bolton Wanderers at Bell's Barrow is to avoid the same fate as Bolton, who won only one first division match this season but defeated Sunderland in the third round.

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Saturday Review

Tea with Mrs Bittell

by V. S. Pritchett

She liked to say it was "inconvenient", on the general ground that a lady should appear to complain beautifully when doing a kindness to someone outside her own class; lately she had been keeping an afternoon for a rather "quaint" person, a young man called Sidney, one of a red-jacketed garter who hopped about at the busy tea counter in Murgatroyd and Foothills. He often chatted with her to annoy the foreign tourists who pushed and shouted at his counter. She discovered that he came on Sundays to her own church. Such a lonely person he was, sitting in his raincoat among the furs and black suits and in such a sad situation; his father had been in the hospital for years now—a coal miner—he had that dreadful thing miners get. It was so good that the young man came to church with a friend, another young man from the tea counter, and walking up from her snooze during the service, she often frowned with pleasure. She would say to her atheistical sister, "The younger generation are hungry for Faith". The second young man stopped coming after a month or two, and only Sidney was left. She astounded him by asking him to tea.

Mrs Bittell was sitting in her flat in the expensive block nearly opposite the church, among the wrongs and relics of her 70 years. When Sidney first came.

"Deliveries round the corner, second door", the doorman said.

"I'm a friend of Mrs Bittell's", said Sidney.

The doorman's chestload of medals flashed. "Why didn't you say you were a friend?" he said, looking Sidney up and down. "Seventh floor."

"A very disagreeable man", said Mrs Bittell when Sidney told her this, his wounded chin raised. She was a pudding woman, reposing on a big sleepy belly; her hair was white and she had innocent blue eyes. She wore, as usual, a loosely knitted pink jersey, low in the neck, a heather-mix skirt, flat-heeled shoes, and was very short. Her family had been army people and at first she thought Sidney rather civilian in a disappointing way when he was not wearing the red jacket he wore in the shop, as she led him across the wide old-fashioned panelled hall of her flat into the full light of her large drawing room, which, in addition to her furniture and pictures, owned a large part of London sky where the clouds prospered: one looked down on the tops of three embassies and across to the creamy stucco of a long square.

Sidney sat looking at the distances between her sofas, her satiny chairs and other fine things. She remembered he had been so startled when she invited him to tea that he must be quite outside the concept of "invitations". Indeed, he had gone first of all to one of the large windows and searched the rooftops until he found the building where he and his family distantly lived. It was a high-rise block, a mile away, howling like cats, he told her, with the tenants' radios and television sets and children.

"We don't have anything to do with the neighbours", he said complacently. "Talk to the people next door, next thing they unscrew your front door or saw it off when you go out, and nick the TV."

He turned his head slowly to Mrs Bittell. He was a slow-walking young man, nearly handsome in a doleful way, and Mrs Bittell liked this; she was slow and melancholy herself. He gave a droll laugh when he spoke of doors being sawn off and took a mild pride in the fact.

He also added something about the nearest roofs. "I can't stand slate", he said. "Slate is killing my father. The mine did it."

Mrs Bittell murmured in her social way that, oh dear, she thought he had been a coal miner.

"No", he said. "Slate."

He spoke in short sentences between disconcerting pauses. "Dad took me down when I left school."

"You worked there?" said Mrs Bittell.

"No", he said, fastidiously. "Slate mines are cold. I don't like the cold."

There was a long pause.

"The deeper you go, the colder it gets", he said.

Mrs Bittell said her sister Dolly had had the same impression of the catacombs outside Rome, even though wearing a coat.

"I've heard of them", he said.

From his account of the mine it seemed to her that he was describing the block of flats in which he was sitting with her, but upside down under the earth. Yet the mine also seemed like a buried church with aisles, galleries and side chapels, but in darkness and shadow, by the noise of drilling holes for the sticks of dynamite and by the explosions in which the earth peeled from cavern to cavern. The man worked with a string of lighted candle on the peaks of their caps.

"Surely, Sidney, that is very dangerous. I've been told," said Mrs Bittell. "Not lamps?"

"No gas in the slate mines", he said. But Sidney fell into a state of meditation. "Splinters", he said. "A splinter drops from the roof and goes clean through your skull. You have to wear a helmet. Dad never wore a helmet."

"Oh dear, how thoughtless" said Mrs Bittell.

"No. A splinter never got him."

Sidney had a taste for horrors which he displayed as part of his family's limited capital. "The dust got him", said Sidney. "He wouldn't wear a mask."

"So I went to work in the grocery."

Mrs Bittell was offering him a second cup of tea from her silver teapot. She held the cup above the slop basin.

"I forgot, d'you like to keep your remains?"

"It's okay, Mrs Bittell", he said.

She was trying to think of a tactful way of saying the accent was on the second syllable of her name.

After that, talk became much easier. His long face still mooned but he warmed, although they got at cross purposes when she thought he was talking about the church when he was talking about the shop. He said he enjoyed the smell of furs, scent—there were like the smell of provisions. He looked at her piano and said,

"Do you play it?"

"Now tell me, how is your father today?" she said.

"The same", he said. "Round at the hospital. He goes three days a week. The doctors think the world of him; he's very popular." He added lazily, "X-rays. He must have had a hundred."

"The family depends on you", she said.

"Oh no", he said. "There was the sickness benefit; the pension; the grant; he's an important case." Sidney seemed to regard the illness as a profession, an investment.

"What a worry for your mother—but you have a sister, haven't you? How old is she? Has she got a job?"

Sidney looked wounded at the suggestion. He was careful to let the peculiarity of his family sink in. "Seventeen", he said. "She sits on the sofa, sucking her thumb, like a baby, and looking at television. She's Mother's pet. They all sit looking at it. Dad too", he said.

This pleased him as he sat thinking about it and he laughed. "Mother goes out", he said, "and always comes back with special offers she sees on the commercials or something from Bingo."

Sidney offered this information in a bemused way. Suddenly he woke up out of his own life and asked, "Who is that gentleman over there?"

She was relieved to see he was looking at one of three portraits on the wall.

"Oh", she said solemnly. "I thought you meant someone had got into the flat." "It's hanging on the wall", he said.

"Oh, that's just the old judge. We call him the judge—the red robe and the fur collar. It was from my mother's family", said Mrs Bittell, in a depressing way. She had caught Sidney's taste for horrors: "I fear not a very nice man. They say he sentenced his own son to death."

"Oh", Sidney nodded. "History."

"I suppose it is", said Mrs Bittell. "I like the next one to it, the boy in blue satin with the little sword—the Little Count. You don't know whether he was really a Little Count."

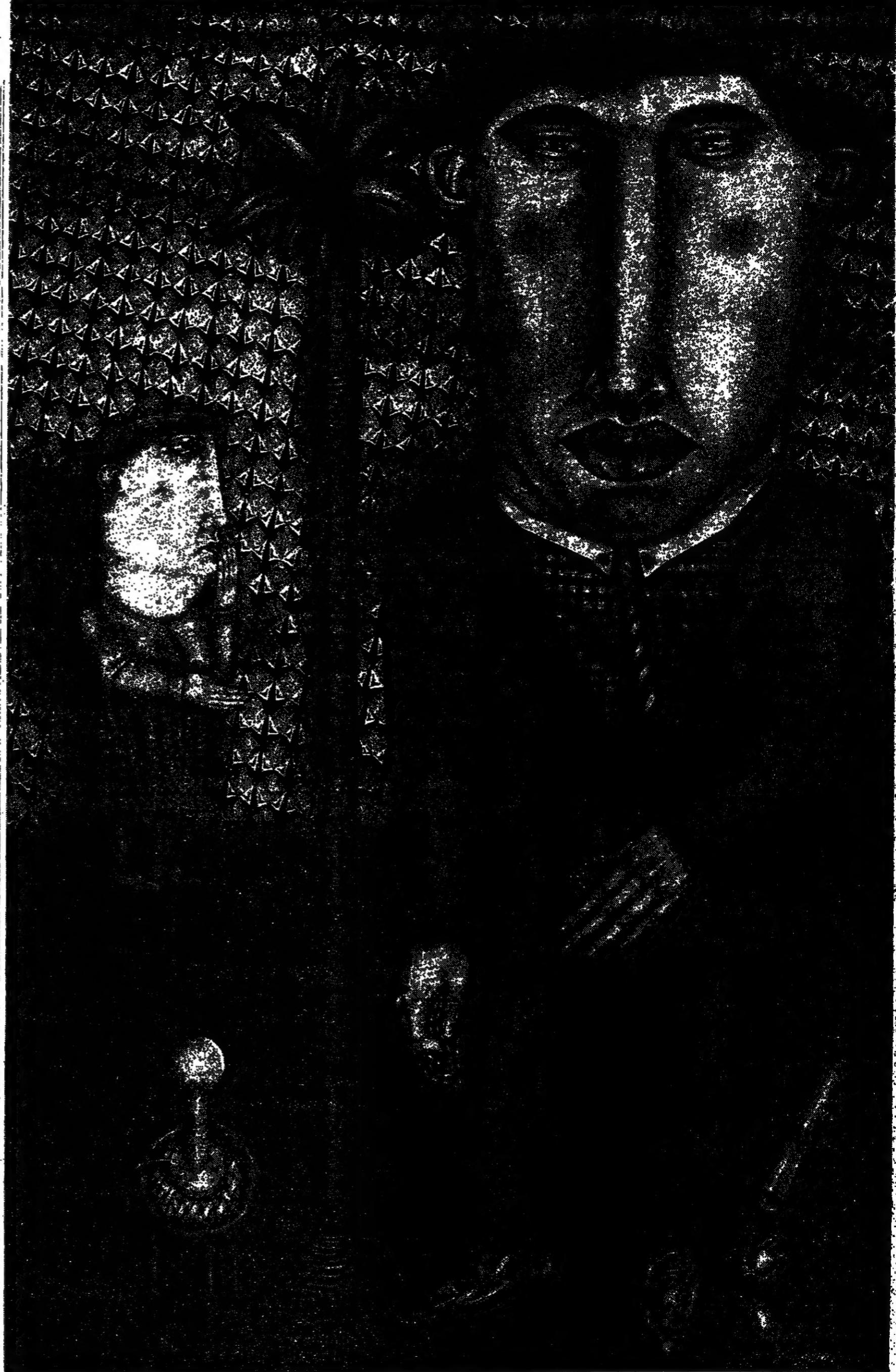
"Is he the one that was sentenced to death?" said Sidney.

"Oh", said Mrs Bittell protectively. "The Little Count was the father of the judge."

She had her own pride in her family's crimes.

He gazed a long time at the Little Count and again at the judge. He gave a sigh. "The Battle of Waterloo was on television last night. Did you see it?"

"I'm afraid not", Mrs Bittell apologized. "I haven't a television. I believe the Misses



Pattison have. I can hear it at night." Her wrongs woke up indignantly. "I don't know why they should complain of my piano."

Sidney ignored this. "Do you think the Duke of Wellington was sincere?" he said.

"They say he was very witty", said Mrs Bittell.

"But do you think he was sincere?"

"Sincere?" said Mrs Bittell. "She was lost. I've never thought of that", she said.

"She saw he was struggling with a moral question, but what was it? She felt one of those violent sensations that swept through her nowadays since her quarrels about the piano. Did Sidney, who was older than she had at first thought, more than 30, his dark hair receding, did Sidney feel too that sincerity, were honesty—anger told her—her own class had betrayed her.

"I know what you mean," said Mrs Bittell, who did not compare Sidney with her ancestors and even with the Duke of Wellington. Sidney was reaching towards the Light, she could not say her forebears had ever done so. She had known the family pictures all her life as family portraits representing the border of centuries, of men meaning less anger. When her husband left her she had seen herself as a woman ruined by generations of reckless plunderers of land, putting down rebellions, fighting wars, gambling and drinking away their money, building big houses, losing their land to lawyers and farmers, grabbing the money of their wives and quarreling with their children. She saw herself with unassuring pride as the victim of history. Even in the Mansions—her residence—were weariness, were weariness—anger told her—her own class had betrayed her.

She calmed herself by showing him a photograph of a boy of 10. "My only grandson", she said. "Of course he's grown up now. Rupert."

"I've got a friend called Rupert", Sidney said.

"Really. Such a nice name", said Mrs Bittell, putting the photograph down.

"He used to work at Murgatroyd's", he said, suddenly. "You must have seen him. He's tall, fair moustache, left."

"I don't remember", she said. "But wait—didn't you bring him to the church?"

"That's it", said Sidney.

"He brought me. You don't often meet a man who has had an education. Every Sunday we used to go to a different church—St Paul's, Westminster Abbey. He knew about antiques too. Lunchtime and Saturdays we used to go to the National Gallery. He could see into pictures. If he was here now", he said, surveying her friend.

friend." Sidney gazed at him for an answer. "After three years", he said.

He gazed as he gazed. He was there as if he were the last of a series of Sidneys who were now quite austerely alone, challenging her with a slight smile on his mouth, to see the dissolution of his case.

"Oh, but there must be an explanation", said Mrs Bittell.

She had an inspiration. "Was he married? I mean—was he going to get married?"

Sidney looked at her dubiously. "Rupert would never marry", he said.

"I mean, you'd think he knew that. It was ruin, he always said; you were better alone."

"It's the wrong person", said Mrs Bittell, nodding. "In the Kingdom of Heaven there is neither marriage nor giving in marriage", she said. "As the Bible says." The two continued on opposite page.

continued from opposite page

of "Sad Am I Without Thee" went through her head. Her words brought her to the point of confidence, but she did not give in to it.

Sidney considered her. He held his hurt face high. "There was an American who used to come into Murgatroyd's. He was from the Bahamas", he said. "Or some-where."

"Ah, she Bahamas!" said Mrs Bittell. "Then perhaps that's where your friend went? My husband's best man went to live in the Bahamas. Have you inquired? Business may have taken him to the Bahamas."

Sidney's pale long face swelled and his mouth collapsed with agonized movements. Mrs Bittell was embarrassed to see tears on his face.

"I can't bear it, Mrs Bittell." A loud howl like a dog's howling at the moon came out of him. He was sobbing.

"Oh, Sidney, what is it?" said Mrs Bittell, moving from her chair to the sofa where he sat.

The try took her back years to a painful scene in Aldershot when a subaltern in her husband's regiment had suddenly sobbed like this about some wretched girl. He had actually cried out his shoulder. Sidney suddenly did this to his head.

His dark hair had a peculiar smell, just like the subaltern's smell. She parted Sidney on the head, but she was thinking, I mustn't tell my sister Dolly about this, or my daughters. It would be terrible if her grandson suddenly came; he often dropped in.

"I am sure you'll hear from him," she was saying.

"I loved him," Sidney wept.

"Love is not lost. In the Kingdom of Heaven, we live for ever," said Mrs Bittell. "I know how you feel. I have been through it. She was thinking of her children.

He sat back away from her. He seemed to be saying that wherever she had been through, it was nothing to what he had been through.

She also saw that in some kind of craven way he was worshipping her. And even while she felt compassion, she felt disturbed.

Why had it never occurred to her, in her miserable troubles, with her husband, long ago over and for which her own family blamed her, that there had been no "other woman"?

"We must turn to God," she said, though she knew that years ago she had done nothing of the sort, that outrage had possessed her.

"We must not cling to our saviours," she said, for he looked vain of his, but he nodded in a vacant fashion. She smiled beautifully, for she felt that there was some hope in that nod. As he got up to go, Sidney changed too. He walked with her into the dim hall, at home in her company now. As he picked up his raincoat, he saw himself reflected in the glass of a very large old picture; the full-length portrait of a girl, it seemed, though scarcely visible except for the face.

"Who is that?" he said.

"Oh, just a family thing. It used to be at Cranach. I'll switch on the light."

There was an overshadowing

tree with leaves like hundreds

of chattering tongues, a little

stream in the foreground and a large grey mossy boulder. On it sat, naked, wonder-looking nymph was sitting, the skin yellowed by time. In one corner of the picture was a little cupid aiming an arrow at her.

Sidney gaped. "Is that you?" he said.

Questions took a long time, stoking into Mrs Bittell's head, which was clouded by kindness and manners and a pride in her relief. She herself had not seen the picture for years.

It was glazed and was hardly more than a mirror in which she could give a last look at her before she went out. She was not surprised by Sidney's remark.

"It doesn't really belong to me, it's really my sister's, but she doesn't like it so I put it there."

Sidney tried to cover his mistake. "That is what I meant. Your sister," he said.

"Oh no," said Mrs Bittell, waking up. "It's Psyche, the goddess, the nymph, I believe. The Greek legend, Psyche—the soul. I really must get one of those lights they fix to frames. It's so hard to know what to do with decorations, don't you find? Do you like it?"

"It's supposed to be by Lely, is it?" said Mrs Bittell nervously.

"My husband said it was probably only a copy. My daughter tells me I ought to get it cleaned and hang it in the drawing room, where one can see it more clearly."

The idea appeared to shock Sidney. "I've never seen one like that in a house before. In a gallery. Not in a house," he said censoriously.

"I mean," said Sidney.

"The man who painted it was he sincere?"

Mrs Bittell was baffled again by the word and murmured politely. Her mind moved as slowly as her feet as she opened the door for him to leave and said, "You must call me Zulimah, Sidney dear. Remember I will pray for you and Rupert. Ring for the lift" she said.

"I'll go down the stairs," said Sidney. He was bewildered.

She went to the bathroom after he had left and saw from the window the top of the diamond block of flats where he lived. Now that the evening was coming on the block was a tall panel of electric light, standing up in the sky. A thought struck her: how absurd to say it's a portrait of Dolly—no resemblance at all.

She flushed the toilet.

For Mrs Bittell, Psyche was

part of her furniture. She had

not really looked at it since

she was a girl at Cranach.

Then she remembered that she

and Dolly used to giggle and say it was Miss Peter, their governess, with nothing on. Mr Bittell had long stopped noticing that Psyche was naked, and if she had been asked, would have said that the figure was wearing one of those gauzy scarves that pictures of nymphs wore in books. She had never even thought of naked statues as being naked. Men, she supposed, might think they were—they were so animal.

"You don't know Mr Taplow, a dear friend," said Mrs Bittell. Mrs Bittell went to make more tea.

"How embarrassing," she said. She imagined she had seen a hot, reddish cloud in Taplow's eyes. He had gaping mouth open, at the picture, and his mouth looked angry and wet.

Now Mrs Bittell's peaceful face changed into a lump of fear. He had had an empty staring expression when he looked at that body. And he had thought it was she herself. Things she had read in the papers rushed into her mind: tales of men-breaking into houses and attacking women, grappling with them, battering them. She had cried on her shoulder. He had touched her hair. His was hot.

The scene became transformed. She saw the struggle. She would scream—she looked at her table with a lamp on it—yes, she would hit him with a lamp. That was what her husband had used on her.

Mrs Bittell sat on the sofa opposite to the one Sidney had, she had sat on and looked at the soiled cushions, her panic mounting. Slowly she said.

"How foolish," she said. Of course—Psyche was the soul, a "three", a loss, sadness. And Sidney too had a "three". He must have been thinking of his father, Mr Taplow's father, in the hospital.

"Nothing serious, I hope," said Mrs Bittell.

"I'm afraid it is," said Mrs Bittell.

"Such a tiresome man. I'm so sorry," she murmured as she took Sidney to the door. "Remember, Sidney dear, what I said: Open the floodgates. Don't forget to come to church on Sunday."

And seeing his unhappy look, she gave him a light kiss.

Sidney was shocked by the kiss.

"Who is that? What's he mean by 'then'? I've seen him somewhere. I'll come back to you... Treplaw," said Mrs Bittell.

"He used to work at Murgatroyd and Foot's," said Mrs Bittell. "Terrible stories he's been telling me. I'm trying to help him."

"Oh I see," said Mr Ferney, relieved, and passed his cup.

"What are you going to do?" she said.

"I'm not in a hurry," he said. "I might go back to Reception. Hotels."

"Is that better?" she said. "Could be," he said.

"That is where I first met him—Rupert—hotel." He was offhand, cool, disdainful.

"Don't sit down and tell me," she said.

He sat down. "It's all this stealing that goes on I can't stand. It's not the customers—it's the staff. Food, drinks, rugs—anything. Six Persian rugs last week. You can see them being wheeled off to Delivery and loaded onto vans in the garden. The doors of pillared ten-

faces looked dubious, embossed were white-sepulchres, the cars outside hotels carried loads of criminals away. Walking in her quiet way, in the past she had floated sedately above curiosity, merely noticing that the young rushed. But now she saw that the city had become a swarming bazaar: swarms of foreigners of all colours—Arabs, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and all people babbling languages she had never heard—came in phalanxes down the pavements, their eyes avid for loot. If she paused because she heard an English voice, she was pushed and trodden on, more than once laughed at. In the once quiet streets, such as the one in which her sister lived, there were empty bottles of whisky and brandy rolling in the garden.

She noticed these things now because for three weeks Sidney had been away, and when she was looking out walking the squares became suspect to her. The doors of pillared ten-

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She noticed these things now because for three weeks Sidney had been away, and when she was looking out walking the squares became suspect to her. The doors of pillared ten-

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Looking towards the superb west front of York Minster

Gardening Through the catalogues

Five years ago we felt that there was not much "spin off", as the saying goes, to the benefit of amateur gardeners from the huge breeding programmes being carried on by seed growers and research institutions all over the world mainly aimed at benefiting commercial growers. Certainly breeders have many aims in mind—resistance to diseases and hopefully but achieved less frequently, to pests, increased yield, early or late cropping to extend the season.

Very important to commercial growers supplying vegetables for canning or freezing is to have crops of, say, peas or Brussels sprouts that all mature at once so that they can be mechanically harvested and dealt with in one operation. Good flavour many people feel is a useful, if fortuitous, bonus and as so many people disagree about flavour in vegetables—or fruits even—that is an aspect I do not propose to take further at the moment.

The amateur, however, does not want strains of vegetables that all mature at once. He wants to be able to cut lettuces and cabbages or pick Brussels sprouts over as long a period as possible. That is why we welcomed the appearance of mixed lettuces and mixed radishes—they spread the harvesting period from one sowing over a month or more besides giving a variety of lettuce colours and textures and colours and shapes of radishes.

To some extent, the lettuce "Salad Bowl", which makes a large rosette of crinkly leaves, has solved the problem of all

our lettuce bolting to seed in a hot spell. You can go on picking leaves as you need them for many weeks.

But we amateurs have gained in the past few years in that some varieties—bred first with the commercial market in mind, stand much longer in good condition, or are resistant to pests and diseases. There are I know some people who prefer the softer "butterhead" lettuces to the crisp types like "Webbs Wonderful" (New York) but I think most of us like a crisp texture. Now "Arvoros" was bred in this country and is better suited to our climate than the American "Webbs Wonderful" types. It is very slow to bolt to seed, it is resistant to lettuce root aphids and it is also resistant to mildew.

Then we are seeing welcome developments with cabbages. Some of the new F1 hybrid varieties stand for longer without splitting or bursting than the older varieties—often for months. Of these new varieties we have "Hiisi" and "Minicole" among others for spring sowing and "Spring Hero" for sowing in the autumn. So too with Brussels sprouts. The first I think of the F1 hybrids with the "long standing without blowing or bursting" characteristic was "Peer Gynt" still a splendid early sprout. But "Rasmunda" is a very late variety that stands well and there are several more F1 hybrids worth a trial. The point I am trying to make is that it is worth while reading the catalogue descriptions and whenever you see a variety noted for being "long standing", try a packet.

Now for some thoughts about marrows, or rather courgettes. As everybody knows, a courgette is a marrow picked when very small, six inches or so long. Left to grow it will make a big marrow. But in recent years the seedsmen have been getting to work on these marrow varieties and there are several F1 hybrids which are used as courgettes, very early fruiting and very prolific.

A friend of mine has found a way to produce large numbers of courgettes in a small area. He planted the variety "Green Bush" F1 hybrid (from Suttons) 15m apart and grew them up bamboo canes. In spite of their rather misleading name, they do produce long stems, if trained on the cordon system, and will even reach four feet. They crop prodigiously, provided, of course, the fruits are picked when very small. Once you let a few marrows grow large the plant goes on strike and fails to produce any more.

My friend also gave me a tip he picked up in Italy. There the courgette growers, when they cut a courgette, also cut away the leaf immediately below it. This encourages the plant to go on growing, reaching for the light and making more leaves and fruits.

Roy Hay



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Travel

Getting away at the end of a week

Mr William Shatner is an actor known to millions as the intrepid Captain Kirk, hero of "Star Trek". Associating him, as one does, with the fiction of the future, it was something of a surprise—albeit a pleasant one—to encounter him among the solid evidence of history, and English history at that. The encounter took place at the Lygon Arms in Broadway, one Sunday last month. Mr Shatner, with his wife and three daughters, had travelled there merely for lunch, but was persuaded to remain overnight so as to see something more of the Cotswold countryside, and something more of the inn, parts of which are probably around six centuries old.

He said afterwards that he thoroughly enjoyed the experience, as did the Shatner ladies. He also said that he would one day return to the Cotswolds for a proper weekend holiday, and if his work does bring him back to England I am pretty sure he will keep that promise, for even in the gloom of December the Cotswolds make an attractive setting in which to relax. There is natural beauty, as well as that made by man, and the stuff of history.

Much as I love the Cotswolds, I must not dwell on them, for the intention is to write about weekends away in various parts of the country. The Lygon was in my mind because of the chance meeting with Mr Shatner and his family, and because I noticed that it offers a special weekend inclusive arrangement until the end of March. The sum of £52.75 covers accommodation in a room with a private bathroom for two nights, morning tea or coffee, English breakfast and a daily allowance of £3 towards a la carte dinner.

Similar arrangements are offered by many hundreds of hotels throughout the country, and details of these are published in "Let's Go", which the English Tourist Board produce each year. "Short breaks in autumn, winter and spring" is the subtitle what says all.

The Lygon Arms is a member of the Prestige Hotels chain—though in truth it is not a chain in the generally accepted sense of the word, rather a loose grouping of

independent establishments all of which are of high standard. Within that group the Lygon Arms, the Close at Tenbury, the Elms Hotel at Abberley and the Cottage in the Wood at Malvern Wells farm "Club 4", and as all are within easy reach of each other, I suppose one could spend a weekend trying them all, although it would be a hectic one! Better, perhaps, to spread your enjoyment over a number of weekends. Like the Lygon Arms, the other three have special weekend arrangements—£45 at the Elms, £42 at the Cottage in the Wood and £32 at the Close.

I do recall, very many years ago, enthusiasm about weekend holidays in Britain but being "put down" by critics who said that such holidays were unlikely to prove popular because the weather is so unpredictable. They also had harsh things to say about the general standards of cooking and comfort in "rural" hotels.

My experience of both lately indicates that great improvements have been made. Certainly one need not fear freezing bedrooms or indifferent food if the hotel is chosen carefully.

Another comparatively recent innovation on the "weekend away" scene is the way in which hotel groups have marketed inclusive arrangements under an assortment of brand names: "Hushaway", "Breakaway", "Winterbreaks", "Weekenders", and the like.

One such programme uses the brand name "Highlife" and offers a choice of 75 hotels in 54 locations, including London and other large cities. This scheme is managed by Thistle Hotels in conjunction with Centre Hotels and Embassy Hotels. In addition to two nights' accommodation and continental breakfast, the price of a "Highlife" weekend can include second class rail travel from your local station. A weekend to the White Swan at York may be had for £24.09 including travel from London, for example, or for £26.80 if you travel from south Glamorgan. Hotels in London, Chester, York, Edinburgh and Aviemore are included in this railway travel arrangement.

"Highlife" claims to be the second largest programme of its type in Britain, but much as I congratulate the organizers on its obvious success, I do wish they would charge a trifle more and include a full English breakfast.

The Lygon Arms is a member of the Prestige Hotels chain—though in truth it is not a chain in the generally accepted sense of the word, rather a loose grouping of

Chess

Bad losers

Few chess players will admit to having lost the game through being outplayed on the chessboard. Bad luck and/or poor health constitute the principal causes of their defeat and Dr Turtakover has written that he never managed to beat that he never managed to beat a wholly well man.

From the time when I first learned how to play chess in 1920 to 1968 when I played in my last great tournament at Kecskemet in Hungary I have, on resigning my game to him, hated my victorious opponent with a kind of spiteful venom. As a schoolboy I was highly successful at chess and had had no occasion to feel this hatred but as I grew older and usage made me more amiable I learnt how to smile while losing, but all the time I felt like Pope Innocent's clock.

Since then, whenever I have noticed Gufeld doing well in a tournament, I have taken a proprietary interest in his success. Which is why I do not give at Kecskemet (to tell the truth I am rather ashamed of it) and instead give a game he won against the Yugoslav grandmaster, B. Ivancovic, at Sochi on the Black Sea last year, where our own Bill Hartston was competing.

White: E. Gufeld. Black: B. Ivancovic. Sicilian Defence. 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 Nf6 4. Nc3 Bb4 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Bb5 Nf6 7. Qd2 Nc6 8. Nf3 Nf6 9. Bb5 Nc6 10. Nf3 Nf6 11. Bb5 Nc6 12. Nf3 Nf6 13. Bb5 Nc6 14. Nf3 Nf6 15. Bb5 Nc6 16. Nf3 Nf6 17. Bb5 Nc6 18. Nf3 Nf6 19. Bb5 Nc6 20. Nf3 Nf6 21. Bb5 Nc6 22. Nf3 Nf6 23. Bb5 Nc6 24. Nf3 Nf6 25. Bb5 Nc6 26. Nf3 Nf6 27. Bb5 Nc6 28. Nf3 Nf6 29. Bb5 Nc6 30. Nf3 Nf6 31. Bb5 Nc6 32. Nf3 Nf6 33. Qd2 Nc6 34. Nf3 Nf6 35. Bb5 Nc6 36. Nf3 Nf6 37. Bb5 Nc6 38. Nf3 Nf6 39. Bb5 Nc6 40. Nf3 Nf6 41. Bb5 Nc6 42. Nf3 Nf6 43. Bb5 Nc6 44. Nf3 Nf6 45. Bb5 Nc6 46. Nf3 Nf6 47. Bb5 Nc6 48. Nf3 Nf6 49. Bb5 Nc6 50. Nf3 Nf6 51. Bb5 Nc6 52. Nf3 Nf6 53. Bb5 Nc6 54. Nf3 Nf6 55. Bb5 Nc6 56. Nf3 Nf6 57. Bb5 Nc6 58. Nf3 Nf6 59. Bb5 Nc6 60. Nf3 Nf6 61. Bb5 Nc6 62. Nf3 Nf6 63. Bb5 Nc6 64. Nf3 Nf6 65. Bb5 Nc6 66. Nf3 Nf6 67. Bb5 Nc6 68. Nf3 Nf6 69. Bb5 Nc6 70. Nf3 Nf6 71. Bb5 Nc6 72. Nf3 Nf6 73. Bb5 Nc6 74. Nf3 Nf6 75. Bb5 Nc6 76. Nf3 Nf6 77. Bb5 Nc6 78. Nf3 Nf6 79. Bb5 Nc6 80. Nf3 Nf6 81. Bb5 Nc6 82. Nf3 Nf6 83. Bb5 Nc6 84. Nf3 Nf6 85. Bb5 Nc6 86. Nf3 Nf6 87. Bb5 Nc6 88. Nf3 Nf6 89. Bb5 Nc6 90. Nf3 Nf6 91. Bb5 Nc6 92. Nf3 Nf6 93. Bb5 Nc6 94. Nf3 Nf6 95. Bb5 Nc6 96. Nf3 Nf6 97. Bb5 Nc6 98. Nf3 Nf6 99. Bb5 Nc6 100. Nf3 Nf6 101. Bb5 Nc6 102. Nf3 Nf6 103. Bb5 Nc6 104. Nf3 Nf6 105. Bb5 Nc6 106. Nf3 Nf6 107. Bb5 Nc6 108. Nf3 Nf6 109. Bb5 Nc6 110. Nf3 Nf6 111. Bb5 Nc6 112. Nf3 Nf6 113. Bb5 Nc6 114. Nf3 Nf6 115. Bb5 Nc6 116. Nf3 Nf6 117. Bb5 Nc6 118. Nf3 Nf6 119. Bb5 Nc6 120. Nf3 Nf6 121. Bb5 Nc6 122. Nf3 Nf6 123. Bb5 Nc6 124. Nf3 Nf6 125. Bb5 Nc6 126. Nf3 Nf6 127. Bb5 Nc6 128. Nf3 Nf6 129. Bb5 Nc6 130. Nf3 Nf6 131. Bb5 Nc6 132. Nf3 Nf6 133. Bb5 Nc6 134. Nf3 Nf6 135. Bb5 Nc6 136. Nf3 Nf6 137. Bb5 Nc6 138. Nf3 Nf6 139. Bb5 Nc6 140. Nf3 Nf6 141. Bb5 Nc6 142. Nf3 Nf6 143. Bb5 Nc6 144. Nf3 Nf6 145. Bb5 Nc6 146. Nf3 Nf6 147. Bb5 Nc6 148. Nf3 Nf6 149. Bb5 Nc6 150. Nf3 Nf6 151. Bb5 Nc6 152. Nf3 Nf6 153. Bb5 Nc6 154. Nf3 Nf6 155. Bb5 Nc6 156. Nf3 Nf6 157. Bb5 Nc6 158. 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Nf3 Nf6 311. Bb5 Nc6 312. Nf3 Nf6 313. Bb5 Nc6 314. Nf3 Nf6 315. Bb5 Nc6 316. Nf3 Nf6 317. Bb5 Nc6 318. Nf3 Nf6 319. Bb5 Nc6 320. Nf3 Nf6 321. Bb5 Nc6 322. Nf3 Nf6 323. Bb5 Nc6 324. Nf3 Nf6 325. Bb5 Nc6 326. Nf3 Nf6 327. Bb5 Nc6 328. Nf3 Nf6 329. Bb5 Nc6 330. Nf3 Nf6 331. Bb5 Nc6 332. Nf3 Nf6 333. Bb5 Nc6 334. Nf3 Nf6 335. Bb5 Nc6 336. Nf3 Nf6 337. Bb5 Nc6 338. Nf3 Nf6 339. Bb5 Nc6 340. Nf3 Nf6 341. Bb5 Nc6 342. Nf3 Nf6 343. Bb5 Nc6 344. Nf3 Nf6 345. Bb5 Nc6 346. Nf3 Nf6 347. Bb5 Nc6 348. Nf3 Nf6 349. Bb5 Nc6 350. Nf3 Nf6 351. Bb5 Nc6 352. Nf3 Nf6 353. Bb5 Nc6 354. Nf3 Nf6 355. Bb5 Nc6 356. Nf3 Nf6 357. Bb5 Nc6 358. Nf3 Nf6 359. Bb5 Nc6 360. Nf3 Nf6 361. Bb5 Nc6 362. Nf3 Nf6 363. Bb5 Nc6 364. Nf3 Nf6 365. Bb5 Nc6 366. Nf3 Nf6 367. Bb5 Nc6 368. Nf3 Nf6 369. Bb5 Nc6 370. Nf3 Nf6 371. Bb5 Nc6 372. Nf3 Nf6 373. Bb5 Nc6 374. Nf3 Nf6 375. Bb5 Nc6 376. Nf3 Nf6 377. Bb5 Nc6 378. Nf3 Nf6 379. Bb5 Nc6 380. Nf3 Nf6 381. Bb5 Nc6 382. Nf3 Nf6 383. Bb5 Nc6 384. Nf3 Nf6 385. Bb5 Nc6 386. Nf3 Nf6 387. Bb5 Nc6 388. Nf3 Nf6 389. Bb5 Nc6 390. Nf3 Nf6 391. Bb5 Nc6 392. Nf3 Nf6 393. Bb5 Nc6 394. Nf3 Nf6 395. Bb5 Nc6 396. Nf3 Nf6 397. Bb5 Nc6

Fred Emery

War fever, but not at Westminster

The Cabinet's considered view that 1939 is not upon us in deciding how to disapprove of Soviet aggression was well reflected on an almost empty Westminster stage. The cockpit was packed at Question Time, with the sound of fury and the smell of bad blood over the steel strike. But there was an unexcited, almost listless reception for the announcement of British ways to make the Russians understand they cannot get away with another Afghanistan. MPs' attendance rapidly thinned, even on the Conservative side.

This may have been because the measures were unexceptionable (even the Opposition held its fire); or because they had been trailed so well in advance; or because Sir Ian Gilmore's studied silence for uncharisma. But despite a few right-wing Tory grumbles, Mr Kingman, Brewster, the United States Ambassador, watching from the gallery might have reflected how laconic the British can seem, compared with the revived rapture for President Carter from the joint session of Congress hearing his tough State of the Union message the night before. But at least he is grateful to have some allied action to report back to Washington, unlike his colleagues in P. & O. Binn.

Another even more striking index of Westminster listlessness was the close of the following debate on Britain and nuclear weapons. Now here was an issue for spending and ideological contentiousness. It was spiced by the revelation that Britain's Polaris missiles are being kept abreast of the game with what sounds like a home-built MARV (manoeuvrable warhead) rather than the Hydra-like MRVs.

Codenamed Chevaline (French origin for equine, as in horse-meat butchers) — appropriate considering the secret involvement of Labour and Conservative governments alike — it will cost a fortune. And even that will seem small beside the replacement for Polaris which the Government plans for the 1990s.

Photograph by Neville Chardwick

Whatever its words this Government's actions abroad are a lot more cautious than they are at home

Yet at 9.28 pm on Thursday with the wind-up speeches underway no more than 53 MPs were present; only 10 press reporters were in the gallery.

The usual numbers gathered for the 10 pm division. But the point here is not censure for absences, only observation that war fever elsewhere has not disturbed the Westminster routine. It may be that debates do not matter, especially when the Government chooses to make decisions first and debate after, as with the stationing of US cruise missiles here.

But there is another reason. It is a deeper, and largely privately held belief among many MPs, that whatever its words this Government's actions abroad are a lot more cautious than they are at home. This makes for maximum political clamour over economic policy and attitudes towards unions, and for virtual acquiescence, a let-them-get-on-with-it in foreign policy.

Of course there are differences. The Labour left is indignant over Lord Soames' alleged bias against Mr Mugabe in Rhodesia; Labour's NEC (without Mr Callaghan forcing a vote) came out against US cruise missiles in Britain. Privately, Mr Callaghan holds that Mrs Thatcher is making a hash of the Olympic issue, and courting a rebuff.

But basically there is no real challenge because the Government has been doing rather well in foreign affairs. There is the Rhodesia settle-

ment; there is the standing up and being counted on the EEC budget, and being in the van, up with the Americans, in protest over Afghanistan. And although she Olympics issue looks an unhappy mess at the moment, some ministers remain convinced that the Russians are going to be fool enough to provoke a greater boycott of the summer games than looks likely. In that sense, the banishment of Dr Sakharov was timely for the Government, even though its own rushing about over the Olympics bears all the signs of disarray.

The sense of reassurance over foreign affairs, if that is what it is, also stems from the characters of Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Ian Gilmore his deputy. They are accepted by most Labour politicians as sane men, who have learned not to flap, and they are credited, along with others in defence matters, in restraining the Prime Minister's reputed propensity for impulsive action. If only, say some of the moderates in all parties they had more influence on economic policy.

Then there would be the candid "we have no intention of hurting ourselves", with which Sir Ian reassured a questioner about London engineering contractors with the Russians. Can not that policy be applied to our domestic problems too?

The economic ministers insist, like doctors, that there has to be pain in a cure. And those dissatisfied with the

ragged Western response to the Soviet Union insist there will have to be sacrifices there, too, if it is to bite; hard answers to reduce American oil profligacy, like Mrs Thatcher's painful but courageous decision, in the long term, raising gas prices.

But still the question is posed of whether we have to intend to hurt ourselves unnecessarily — and that is still the real bone of contention in our politics. Can it make sense for the steel strike to end up costing outrageously far more than it would have done to settle before it started?

I accept the point of those who upbraid the suggestion of appeasing blackmail, who insist that there has to be sticking point. But government is not in office to miss opportunities to settle a strike; and some members of the Cabinet think there is a danger of that. Let the sticking point be the Government's insistence on productivity, that the steelmen genuinely earn pay increases.

But equally there seems no reason why the Government should not look again at the question of steel plant closures, which next year will reduce the existing work force by one-third, and reduce production capacity to the margin of deindustrialisation.

The Government has made much of the last steel sector working party report in emphasising how low down British workers are in the EEC productivity league.

But that same report, in a little noticed passage, noted that the break-even point for the majority of our EEC competitors was not being planned before the end of 1981 — compared with the deadline for BSC beginning this March.

A solution for steel will take more taxpayers' money. And it is not only Mr Callaghan who questions whether we need to apply sticking plasters to our foreign trade while risking a haemorrhage at home.

Champion conductor: Miss Betty Anderson of Leicester with the Ratby brass band: the first woman to conduct in the British Open Championships.

not quite right for girls. The players were generally older men and there was also the fact that bands usually met for practice in a public house."

Betty Anderson spent 25 years with Leicester Imperial Band, then moved to nearby Kilworth Band. "When I moved to Kilworth I was playing for the first time with players of my own age group. That was really the first time I had been a woman in a man's world; before that I had been a girl in an old man's world", she says.

"There were no other women in the band at that time. I was the exception and I didn't want them to change for my benefit. I told them: 'Don't worry about not saying things. What I don't want to hear I will not hear. I was always willing to make my own acceptable rules. But, having said that, during my entire banding career I have never been in any group of bandmen who have made me think I would not want my mother or my grandmother to hear their conversation. From a woman's point of view I have been particularly lucky."

The pioneering women players in brass bands invariably came from a family background of established players. Their entry was un-

dramatic: a gradual emergence which coincided with the outbreak of the Second World War followed by a quickening post-war intake as bands revived or new ones were started.

Many bands remain entirely male in their constitutions: in some instances the woman's role is still confined to organizing social events to raise money to keep the bands in existence. In isolated instances wives and female supporters travel to engagements in a separate coach. In general, however, women are playing an increasing part in the movement and the trend can be expected to continue.

It is estimated that of the 3,000 or so musicians taking part in the annual national championships, 10 per cent are now girls aged between eight and twenty. Some bands have only one female player: the band with the largest number is Kilmarnock Concert Brass, the Scottish champions, which has 17 girls among its players.

"Everybody's attitude is hardening. We are digging in: the feeling is that now we are out,

we will stay out for 20 per cent."

As if to underline the hardening attitude, the strike committee this week threatened to withdraw the vital steelmen from the Iron Queens, Scunthorpe's four giant blast furnaces, and the coke ovens, unless management laid off the non-union steel grades still at work. BSC has agreed to lay off 100 by Monday.

Now everyone agrees with Mr Teale. Mr Roger Cuckow has been trying to call a mass meeting of strikers who want to accept and return, but has been thwarted by threats of intimidation.

"I have had hundreds of phone calls of support. A lot of people want to know what

right the ISTC has to keep us out when they don't know what we feel. People here were incensed at the original offer, and they are not necessarily happy with the present offer, but they want to go back and let ACAS sort out the fine print.

"We will be the losers if

we stay out for 20 per cent."

Mr Cuckow has lost £300 in wages since the strike began, and has recouped only £24.50 in social security. His wife earns £19 a week as a part-time post office clerk to help pay their mortgage.

He and like-minded moderates are not happy that the Labour-controlled Scunthorpe council has voted to support the strike and has given the strike committee an office at

nominal rent.

Many strikers are also angry

that Mr Arthur Scargill, the

Yorkshire miners' leader, has

entered the fray. "He's only

shouting his mouth off because

we make all the pit props and

arches for the South-Yorkshire

coalfield at Scunthorpe. He

knows very well his pits will

shut down as soon as their

supplies run out," said one

striker with thinly-disguised

sarcasm.

In the middle of 4,500 acres of

idle plait stretching beyond

the horizon in all directions

and served by its own 250-mile

internal rail system, Mr Doug

Ford, the works director, surveys his stagnant empire.

"This place was built to

produce 5,500,000 tonnes of

steel a year. Now I have to

reduce my output to three mil-

lion tonnes, and I have to

make this place break even.

"By the end of this month we will have lost £10m, more than we did in the first nine months of last year, when this plant was operating reasonably efficiently.

"We have already shed 1,700 jobs in the last year. This plant is among the most efficient anywhere in BSC. But somehow we still have to find more fat to cut. My raw material costs will go up by 5 per cent in the next year, and my prices probably by 5 per cent. Work that you cut for yourself."

The manager of the Scunthorpe job centre looks despairingly at his almost empty vacancy boards. Advertised opportunities for skilled men in a Dutch steelworks, and at the Longbridge car plant, have elicited little response.

"All my vacancies are for skilled men, and all the men on my books are unskilled. It is very difficult to place men over 50. And Scunthorpe itself will never be able to absorb the forthcoming steel redundancies. What other industry there is here relies on the steelworks, like haulage contractors and maintenance firms."

Yesterday he had 588 vacancies on his books; a year ago he had nearly 1,000. In a town of women's work with hosiery, electronics and potato crisp factories, he still has 1,439 unemployed females on his register, besides his 2,664 jobless men.

But people are reluctant to leave sunny Scunthorpe, however hard times are. Its worst enemy is its own name, the subject of many a vulgar music hall joke. But if the weather is good, jobs are to be had 30 miles away on booming Rotherham for those with the will and the money to make the journey. And the town has some of the cheapest housing in Britain with a respectable modern semi to be had at £10,000, and a country mansion for £20,000.

As attitudes harden, and the men face the prospect of at least another week on strike before the ice begins to crack, Scunthorpe's strike leaders have put the dispute firmly in its political context. Yesterday they were issuing lapel badges inscribed: "Save BSC — Snuff the Iron Lady".

Alan Hamilton

January pleasures

here, "never lie dead in a gutter" and there are frequent scufflings among dead leaves and all the accumulations of last year's plantain leaves as blackbirds scoop them aside in their searchings for something to eat. The males provide flashes of golden bills and ornate rings before they settle to a better place.

But really, apart from the loud barking and the musical talk of the wild swans, most sounds are small now and soon over. A few nuthatches, scarce in this part of the country, pour chains of spring whistling from bare beeches and gangs of long-tailed and other titmice work old caskets, high in the birches, casting off the bracts

to fall in pale brown showers to the earth, as they chatter companionably the time. Sometimes their sibilant talk is replaced by more melodious reedings of redpolls, so rapid in their movements that it is hard to see their red foreheads and black bibs.

Numerically speaking, "January blossoms would fill no man's cellar", but the surprise of coming across a solitary celandine, wide-open and shining in the sun, or an early rogue of a barren strawberry flower, or gorse bushes full of flower and especially a patch of winter aconites, as I did yesterday, even though these are classed by botanists as "garden escapes" in bloom on a sheltered wooded slope, are pleasures that herald more exuberant cellos of delights that are still to come.

Alison Ross

SPORTS DIARY

Double confusion

In men's tennis the ultimate confusion is that surrounding the identical twins, Tim and Tom. Gullikson, the right-hander, reckons the best way to distinguish them is to relate the "i" in "Tim" to the "i" in "right". Off court, one clue is the wedding rings. Tom, the left-hander, wears the ring on his right hand — Tim on his left hand. There is also a slight gap in Tom's teeth. Tom is totally left-handed but Tim bats left-handed at baseball and when playing golf with their father is equally ambidextrous. When they play golf together, all three are left-handers.

Tim's favourite memory, among many examples of the perplexity they have caused in tennis, goes right back to the start. I was on the circuit a year before Tom and no one knew I had a twin brother. Louis, in 1976, was Tom's first grand prix tournament. He was practising his serve

and he has a pretty good left-handed serve. Onny Parus and Gerald Ratwick were practising on the next court and they couldn't believe it. Onny told Tom: "You've got a great serve. Tim. You should serve left-handed in a match."

A charming bunch of French tennis writers are spreading around the circuit. For them, game and set are jeu and manche, forehand and backhand are coup droit and revers, and volley and drop are volée and amortie. But these are not the right temperatures. I was stored in the right temperature.

There is also a slight gap in Tom's teeth. Tom is totally left-handed but Tim bats left-handed at baseball and when playing golf with their father is equally ambidextrous. When they play golf together, all three are left-handers.

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newly minted down their gold before the Restoration.

Mississippi's prettiest girl before her

palpitations on December 3, underwent surgery on December 13. He knew then that his life was in peril whether he had the operation or not. "I've always known that life was unfair. Everybody gets dealt a different number of cards. They told me there was a 1 per cent chance I could die on the operating table and a 4 to 8 per cent chance that I could have another heart attack during the operation. But I decided to take these chances. I don't live in fear any more."

Now Ashe is studying French, busying himself with a variety of tennis-related activities — and, without being reckless, wondering if he can return to competitive tennis. "If I can't play, I'll sit for five minutes — then I'll get on with something else."

Another black entertainer recently enlivened a rare evening's leisure during an otherwise inhibiting round of indoor tournaments. This was the case and lusty blues singer, Castle Smith, who was devoting her vibrant personality and superb professionalism to

watch her arse."

These trade secrets will slip

out. The Tennis circuit is consistently enlightening.

Rex Bellamy

The tennis wedding of the year

Bjorn Borg, it seems, is as painstaking about the design of his fiancée's wedding dress as he is about his tennis. "He wanted to know what was going on and why," says Ted Tilling, the couturier, who is designing Mariana Simionescu's dress for her marriage to Borg at Snagov, near Bucharest, on July 24. During the recent Masters' Tournament in New York, Tilling went to the couple's suite for preliminary discussions about the dress. "You wouldn't necessarily assume, from his ice-man projection on court, that he would be a gracious host," says Tilling of Borg. "But I found him intelligent, gracious, and possessive."

A man of arresting presence and dazzling, sometimes acidulous wit, Tilling serves tennis as Oscar Wilde and Noel Coward served literature and the theatre. Born at Eastbourne,

Men's circuit camp followers

The Borg-Simionescu wedding is a reminder that the men's

circuit is very much a family affair these days. Marilyn Fernberger, the promoter of this week's tournament at Philadelphia, arranged for 10 cribs to be available at the Tournament Hotel. "I was aware of the players with young children. You can't expect cribs to be there automatically when the players walk in. So we called the hotel and warned them." Jimmy Connors and his wife had a refrigerator installed in their room so that their food could be stored at the right temperature. At the tennis stadium, baby-sitters have been working in shifts. These days tennis promoters have to think of everything.

One of the proud new fathers, Brian Gottfried, was telling me the other day why his wife Windy will, in future, always be listed under her proper name, Windred, when visiting England. "Windy is a kind of nickname. But we just found out that in England 'windy' isn't the nicest thing you can call somebody."

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Gloucester will open the conference on "How to profit from timber frame today" at the Cavendish Square, West London, on February 12. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester will be present at the election service and reception of the Craftsmen's Company, on February 27.

Birthdays today

The Hon Sir Maurice Bridgeman, 75; Mr Henry Cotton, 73; Mr William Dring, 76; Miss Jacqueline du Pre, 35; Mr George Middleton, 72; Mr R. Ronald Walker, 73; Dr Ruth Young, 95.

TOMORROW: Sir Wilfred Bourne, SS; Sir Kenneth Corfield, 26; Lord Chelwood, 63; Sir Robert Deacon, 70; Sir John Evans, 77; Mr Justice Faulks, 72; Mr Maurice Macmillan, MP, 59; Miss Nina Millican, 61; Mr W. R. van Straaten, MP, 56; General Sir Dudley Ward, 75; Lord Wells-Pecil, 70.

Today's engagements

Exhibition: Michael Grunard, organised by the Association of Photographers in Wales, Photographic gallery, 41 Charles Street, Cardiff, 10-5.

Lectures: A Greek Island, colour

films on the carnival and a

traditional wedding on Skye.

Romance, Museum, London

Royal Forest, 3:30; 20, 12-5

in the Tate, by Simon

Wilson, Tate Gallery, 3, Celtic

and Roman jewelry from

Britain, by David Williams,

11-30; The techniques of

archaeological excavation, 3,

British Museum.

The battle of the sexes, an

anthology of poetic and

prose, Richmond Shakespeare

Society, Court House,

Hampshire Court Road, Hamp-

ton, Middlesx, 8.

Craft toy fair, Police Children's

Theatre, 240 The Broadway,

Wimbledon, 2.

Concert: Black Dyke Mills Band,

North Kesteven sports centre,

Lincoln, 7.30.

Walk: Kensington, Queen Vic-

toria's royal village, Meet High

Street Kensington Underground,

2.

TOMORROW:

Antiques fair, Rembrandt Hotel,

Thurloe Place, 11-6.

Exhibition: Horning's world of

mirrors, Burgh House Trust, New

End Square, Hampstead, 12-5

(last day), Brinsford at Bay: The

home from 1918-1945, Imperial

War Museum, Lambeth Road,

2.30-5.30; Ingres drawings, V

and A Museum, Cromwell Road,

2.30-5.30; Marie Merle, White-

chapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel

Hill Street, 11-6.

Leisure: From the New World:

H. L. Mencken, by T. F. Evans,

South Pole Ethical Society,

Conway Hall, Red Lion Square,

11; Spiritual art in the Tate,

by Simon Wilson, Tate Gallery,

1.

Concert: Philharmonic, Beethoven

Cycle, Choral Fantasy, Sym-

phony, 8, Wembley Confer-

ence Centre, Wembley, 2.

Walks: Discovering London,

Soho, meet Embankment

Underground station; A Journey

through Dickens's London,

meet Westminster Underground,

11; Historic Westminster

Underground station; 2; A Jour-

ney through Blackfriars

Underground station, 2; A Jour-

ney through Roman Hampstead Underground station, 2; a Jour-

ney through Roman London,

meet Tower Hill Underground,

2; Historic charm of Mayfair

and St James's, meet Green

Park Underground station, 2.30.

Church news

The Rev R. C. Wallis, priest-in-

charge of Newgate, will be Regent of

Uppingham School, and Rector of

the Rev A. Wetherell, curate of

St. Mary's, St. G. Cuthbert, Lothian,

Archdeacon of Edinburgh, The

City Centre Pastoral of Southamp-

ton, the Rev M. A. Whitehead, Domestic

Chaplain to the Bishop of Winchester

and Vicar of Second, of Winchester,

the Rev J. W. Bracken, Master of

Ridgeway, of St. Edmund's, and

the Rev N. F. Royal, of

St. John's, Wimborne, Dorset, and

the Rev G. F. Cooke, Vicar of

Culver and Stoney Middleton, 12.30.

The Rev. New Richard Wingfield

Dick, the Dean of Peterborough, 2.

The Rev J. Harder, Diocesan Edu-

cation Officer of Church Law and

Order, in the spring, 12.30.

The Rev. G. Jenkins, Vicar of York

and Luddington, 12.30.

The Rev. Charles the Martyr, Faversham,

the Rev. G. L. Williams, Vicar of

Stanley, diocese of Derby, in the

spring.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Professor W. L. Saunders, director

of the School of Librarianship,

Sheffield University, to be

president of the Library Association

for 1980.

Mr William Fitzgerald, Tayside

region convenor, to be president

of the Convention of Scottish

Local Authorities.

Legal

Mr I. C. Webb, a barrister, to be

Clerk to the Justices for the petty

sessional division of Bury from

May 1.

Services tomorrow:

Third Sunday after

Epiphany

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: HC, 8. M.

Rev. Dr. T. D. Nowell (Collecting re-

gularly); Av. Verum corpus

and Mass; Evensong, 6.30.

ST. MARY MAGDALENE: HC, 8. M.

Rev. Dr. G. C. Evans; Rev. Dr. G.

McKee, 10.30.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Personal
investment and
finance,
pages 18 and 19

■ Stock markets
FT Index 4524, up 3.7
FT Gilts 67.78, down 0.47

■ Sterling
\$ 2.2640, down 35 pps
Index 71.9, down 0.1

■ Dollar
Index 84.9, up 0.2

■ Gold
\$660 an ounce, down \$45

■ Money
3 mth £ 174.17
3 mth Euro-S 144.144
6 mth Euro-S 144.144

IN BRIEF

Report on gilt deals to be tabled on Feb 5

The outcome of the Stock Exchange inquiry into gilt deals carried out by stockbrokers Heddlewick, Stirling, Grunbar and Co will be made known on February 5.

The disciplinary committee has completed its investigations into allegations that the controversial dealings took place in a manner detrimental to the interests of the Stock Exchange and an appeal procedure has apparently been completed. Recommendations will have to be ratified by the full council. If it was found that any member had acted in an unethical manner, it is thought that the Stock Exchange would impose a severe penalty. That could include the suspension or even termination of that person's membership.

£35m John Brown bid

Engineering group John Brown has launched a £35m takeover bid for Learson, an American plastics machinery group. John Brown will raise some £23m in America to finance the acquisition, but its £23m of United Kingdom cash will remain largely untouched.

Financial News, page 20

Oil futures market

A formula to proceed with setting up a petroleum product futures market in London has been established by a London commodity exchange ICE working party, says Mr Michael Cohen, managing director of Gail and Durus Chemicals and joint chairman of the ICE working party.

Dinky, Meccano go on

Airfix Industries, which has closed its Meccano factory in Liverpool, says it is confident that supply of Meccano and Dinky products would continue in the future. Both ranges will be produced elsewhere. The Liverpool plant would not be reopened but "every effort" was being made to find a purchaser.

Gold falls \$45

In much calmer trading conditions the price of gold came down a further \$45 an ounce yesterday to close at \$660 an ounce in London. This is its lowest closing level since January 14. Although a drop of this size in the price would have been considered dramatic some days or weeks ago, it did not reflect any panic selling yesterday. The morning fix was much higher at \$691.5 an ounce, and dealers reported that the price move down after the Swiss market closed at mid-day.

Rules for actuaries

A rule that chief actuaries of insurance companies must be at least 30 years old is contained in new requirements issued yesterday by the Department of Trade. Another is insistence that appointed actuaries are Fellows of the Institute of Actuaries or the Faculty of Actuaries.

Tougher Bill call

A call for amendments to toughen the Employment Bill was made by Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Braitfim 7p to 62p
Grooviel 28c to 53c
Lasso 25p to 405p
Lia Somatra 40p to 590p
Ningate Explorer 25p to 525p

Plea for state industries to be financed direct from City money markets

Nationalized industries chairmen are pressing for direct access to the City's capital markets and for their borrowings to be removed from calculations of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

As a group they have told Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and their sponsoring ministers at the Departments of Energy and Industry that cash limits determined to keep public sector borrowing in check are self-defeating if they injure productive investment by nationalized industries.

They claim that investment opportunities which any private company would take by borrowing direct from the banks are being denied them because to keep control of the PSBR government has failed to distinguish between the requirements of services such as health and social security, which will always be a drain on the Exchequer, and potentially profitable nationalized industries which, if allowed to act with independence, would not be.

On the whole the nationalized industries' chairmen have met with a sympathetic response. They believe the problems are at least appreciated, even if the monopoly corporations such as the Post Office, British Gas and the electricity authority.

Further tightening could sharply reduce needed investment.

Little is being done about them. Increasingly, however, statements are made by the government that the market place in the same way as many private companies are. Returns are set by government.

In a commercial world the ability to borrow would be based on those returns, but the government could well argue that to control the level of borrowing without controlling the level of borrowing would be to allow a greater degree of freedom for the future, but as a permanent drain on resources, continuously inflating the state borrowing requirement, pushing up the money supply and crowding out private companies from the capital markets.

Under present rules nationalized industries may borrow from private sources only with Treasury permission. Otherwise they are forced to take their requirements from the National Loan Fund.

However restrictive this may be, government can well argue that any commercial borrowing by nationalized industries, carries in effect, a government guarantee, and consequently is not subject to the same financial disciplines as private companies would be.

Their cash resources were considerably tightened as a result of the failure of the Labour Administration's voluntary 3 per cent pay ceiling which turned into a 15 per cent average pay rise and the following strict limits imposed by the incoming Conservative Administration.

Further tightening could sharply reduce needed investment.

Public spending cuts to go on

By Caroline Addison

The Government intends to go on cutting its spending in real terms throughout most of this Parliament, rather than stabilizing it as first planned. But the cuts for 1980-81 may be smaller than expected. This is because a large part of the savings now being drawn up for the financial year will probably affect only half of the year.

If the link between social security benefits and prices is dropped, or relaxed, as part of the next round of spending cuts the effect in 1980-81 will be much less than in a full year. The upturn in line with inflation would normally only come in November—half-way through the spending year.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made

clear in a letter to the Confederation of British Industry yesterday that the Government was drawing up plans to cut spending in real terms in the years after 1980-81. This will involve huge cuts on the last published plans for these years, which were made by the Labour Government.

The Chancellor was hammering home the message given recently by other ministers, most notably Mr John Biffen, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that the Government was engaged in a drastic and long-term cutting exercise.

Mr Biffen said last weekend that he was looking for cuts of the order of £2,000m by the end of the Parliament. However, this figure could easily be misinterpreted. It refers to cuts to be taken in the coming week.

spending plans for 1980-81. The next White paper, to be published, probably on March 18, will show a smaller figure for 1980-81 and then further reductions in the following years to a level probably about 3 per cent below that at which the Government said last year it wanted to stabilize its spending.

These calculations exclude the possible effects of a cut in Britain's contribution to the EEC.

The next White paper will probably project a level of spending about 8 or 9 per cent less in real terms by 1982-83 than proposed by the Labour Government.

The spending decisions have

been taken by Cabinet in the coming week.

German payments deficit may double to DM 20,000m

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Jan 25

West Germany's current account balance of payments deficit could double this year at 20,000m marks (about £5,000m), from the 10,000m mark deficit now expected to be announced for 1979.

Although both the Federal Bank in Frankfurt and the government in Bonn agree that this marked deterioration from the 17,500m mark surplus achieved in 1978 should not be over-dramatized, Dr Helmut Schlesinger, the Federal Bank's deputy governor, told business men in Dusseldorf last night that the deficit would have to be reduced in the longer term to keep the Deutsche mark strong as a weapon against inflation.

The rise in oil prices, the main reason for Germany's shift into deficit, is creating particularly problems for the Bonn government, which is obliged by law to produce its annual report on the economy

by the end of this month. There will be more "ifs and buts" than usual and the projections are likely to be presented as targets rather than forecasts.

According to the draft copy of the report, Bonn is hoping that gross national product will rise in real terms by around 2.5 per cent this year after last year's increase of more than 4.5 per cent.

However, economists expect an appreciable slowdown in the second half of the year. Not only is the world economic situation expected to deteriorate, but they point out that the 2.5 per cent growth in the economy under discussion incorporates a statistical overhang of about 1.5 per cent from last year.

Although international economic trends are looking grim, the report does not anticipate a sharp fall in September next year and claimed that America's competitive advantage resulted from other factors such as the scale of production and plant efficiency.

The EEC Commission is now faced with the task of drawing up proposals to curb the inflow and these will be put to a meeting of EEC ministers on February 4. The British Government, in particular, wants rapid action by the Community.

EEC sources are not excluding the possibility of some regional safeguard measures being introduced to protect Britain's synthetic fibre industry. The market penetration of American products has been far less pronounced in other member states.

It is felt that a limited proposal of this sort would be less likely to stimulate protectionist feelings on either side of the Atlantic.

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The more prominent you are, the more likely it is that your name will be "rented out" to companies which want to boost sales by direct mailing.

One such list now offered gives 5,000 names of people described as "wealthy". The definition says the list will give the "at home" addresses of wealthy people compiled from a wide and varied range of sources.

It is included in the consumer section of one of many lists capable of supplying thousands of names and handled by List Management Services, a private company operating from a fourth-floor office opposite Foyles' bookshop in Charing Cross Road, London.

Mr Graeme McCorkell, 40-year-old director and shareholder, who started the company eight years ago, said: "I am not prepared to discuss how this particular list is compiled. You are not a prospective client."

And what about the A and B ladies who have purchased expensive accessories by mail order?

Decca board recommends acceptance of £65m takeover bid by Racial Electronics

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

Financial Editor

Racial Electronics took a significant step towards becoming Britain's number two electronics company yesterday when it secured the agreement of Decca's board to a £65m takeover bid.

Serious discussions between the two had been going on throughout the week and the deal was struck on Thursday. Decca's board, headed by 79-year-old Sir Edward Lewis, is recommending shareholders to accept an offer from Racial.

Decca's cash resources are not controlled by the market place in the same way as many private companies are.

Returns are set by government. In a commercial world the ability to borrow would be based on those returns, but the government could well argue that to control the level of borrowing without controlling the level of borrowing would be to allow a greater degree of freedom for the future, but as a permanent drain on resources, continuously inflating the state borrowing requirement, pushing up the money supply and crowding out private companies from the capital markets.

Leaders of the nationalized industries are clearly worried that the cash limits already set for 1980-81 could be cut back. At the back of their minds must be the fear that they will be cash constrained that their ability to meet pay demands will be so restricted as to force them into confrontation with the National Loan Fund.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Taxation

Fringe benefits are still worth having

The zeal of most directors and executives for more tax efficient fringe benefits does not seem to have been dimmed by the reductions in the top rates of income tax contained in the last Budget. Possibly, this is because fringe benefits mentality has become entrenched; it may also be accounted for by the fact that junior and middle management were not significantly affected by the recent tax cuts.

As a result of the Finance Act 1976 and other legislation, higher paid employees earning over £8,500 and directors are generally taxed on their fringe benefits in a different—and usually less rewarding—way from that of their lower paid colleagues. The £8,500 includes salary, reimbursed expenses and all benefits values as if the employee were higher paid (employer's pension contributions are not included).

An employee who accidentally crosses the line from lower paid status to higher paid by just a few pounds could find himself very much worse off financially if he has to give fringe benefits such as the use of a company car, company season ticket or some other asset.

The crucial difference is this: unlike the lower paid the director or higher paid employee is taxed on the cost of providing a fringe benefit. Each year, such benefits should be returned on form P11D so that the Inland Revenue can make an assessment. If the higher paid employee makes a contribution towards the cost of the benefit then the tax liability is reduced.

Where there is no easily identifiable cost of providing a benefit—as in the case of a loan of an asset to an employee—a deemed or assumed cost is used as the

basis for the tax charge. This deemed cost of providing the benefit is known as the *legislated cash equivalent* and is the amount of additional taxable income that the employee is assumed to have received during the period he has the asset lent to him.

There are special cash equivalents for the loans of cars, accommodation and cash, but all other loans of assets to employees who cannot establish that it is normal or necessary for their duties to occupy such accommodation. "Controlling directors" escape the tax liability only if they are in physical danger and occupy specially secured accommodation for their protection.

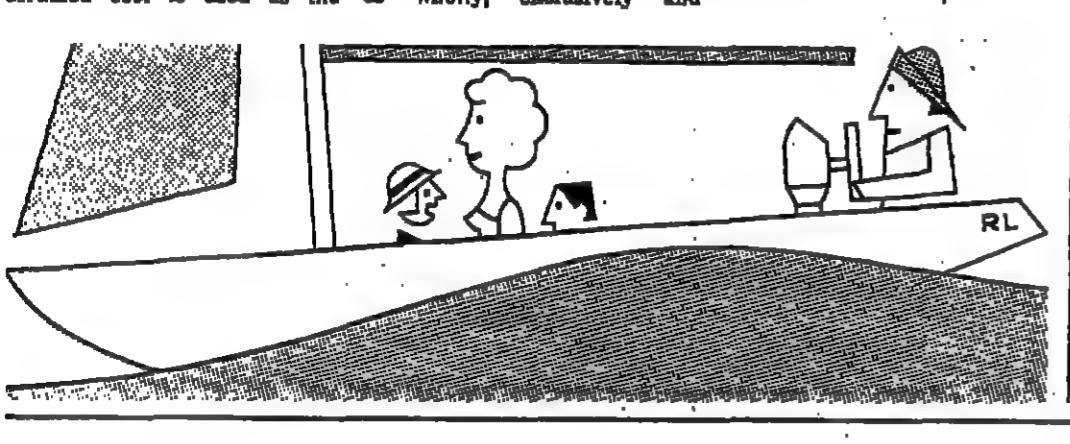
However, if the property is owned by the employer, the taxable benefit may be very small in relation to the alternative cost of the employee acquiring his own accommodation. The cash equivalent would generally be the value for rating purposes—usually very much less than the rent that the property would fetch on the open market.

If the employer does not own the property then the cash equivalent of the benefit is generally the actual rent paid by the employer. Running costs paid by the employer such as heat, light and rates are also chargeable benefits, but there is an upper limit on the taxable cash equivalent.

Company cars which are used substantially for business (at least 10 per cent of total use) are taxed on a fixed scale, varying according to the car's age, original cost and engine size. The maximum cash equivalent is £880 and this assessment covers the total running costs of the car, including the costs of private use. It is important that the employer pays the costs of the private mileage direct to the garage supplying the petrol.

If the employee pays for private petrol and is then reimbursed these amounts will be fully taxable, because the expenditure cannot be allowed as wholly, exclusively and

Danby Bloch



Investor's week

Gilt market suffers from indigestion

It was a week of confusion, it was a week of calm; it was a week of surprises; it was a week of yawns; it was a week of records; it was a week when nothing much seemed to have happened at all.

The FT index moved from 459.8 to 452.4. What more is there to say. Yet it was a week of significance.

Confusion reigned in gold. Buyers hoped it would go for the first time to \$1,000 an ounce, which it did, on the Chicago futures market. However it fell faster than ever before on Tuesday, by \$135, to end the week at \$660.

Confusion, too, and indeed fury, ruled in gilts. A week ago the authorities announced £1,800m's worth of two new tap stocks and at once there was a chorus of congratulations about December's inflation figures, just the right side of appalling, and of rumours about big foreign buyers and imminent peace in steel.

Brokers who compete with each other for stock sensed a stampede. But they would have done better to collude rather than compete. There was only a rout as brokers were stung with stock nobody wanted and prices collapsed. Gilt-edged were not such a bargain after all.

Surprises supported ordinary shares. National Carbonising,

now controlled by evangelist Mr Graham Ferguson Lucy, sold its LaMere North Sea oil stake for £12m and the shares plunged. Later came even more surprising reports that he was talking to Gulf Fisheries, the Arab concern about their 21 per cent stake in LaMere.

Out of the blue, Blue Circle Industries bid for Armitage Shanks, the last independent in levatories and basins.

MFI saw profits go up from £6.03m to £8.06m in its first half year, and overseas trader Inchcape pleased everyone with a jump in interim profits from £23m to £31.5m. Fitch Lovell

took us aback with an interim 50 per cent leap to £5.9m.

Excitement of a different sort came from John Brown of Clydebank fame with word of a United States acquisition and a forecast profits plunge, and from Davy Corporation which dismayed shareholders with an interim fall of 46 per cent to £4.6m, ending 10 years of growth.

There is something here for all. Those who say that it is too late for the FT index to visit the 350 mark, point out that not all United Kingdom companies are in manufacturing, let alone engineering. In fact they

are becoming less important in stock market terms.

Sceptics point out that a majority of manufacturers have December year-ends or interim dates unlike stores and brewers who commonly draw a line under their books at the end of September. Recent company news has been unduly favourable. The rough stuff will start in February and March.

Finally the yawns came mostly from official figures. So dividends were 70 per cent up in July-September on the year before. But it is what happens to them now that matters. Here, Muirhead's cut final, blamed on a lack of cash to finance both orders and payout, is a bummer. So, at long last, Racal bid for Deco.

So the unemployment figures for the month to mid-January showed a 44,300 increase to 1.34m. Clearly, the recession is well under way, but we knew that too, did we not? However, it is good to be reminded that the economy is getting worse—and that no one yet can see the bottom.

Nor will matters for industry improve if the pound starts weakening along with the price of oil. Dearer raw materials are the last thing cash starved industry wants on its hands now.

PW

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's Year's ago	New Company	Change	Comment
398p	124p Lasmo	23p to 406p	Cavwoods raise stake
300p	158p Rank Org	18p to 208p	Good annual tips
656p	190p Siebens (UK)	90p to 856p	Bras Field deal; bid gossip
483p	315p Sotheby	60p to 470p	Takeover talk
438p	242p United Scient	46p to 438p	Defence stock
			Falls
153p	88p Davy Corp	17p to 81p	Int setback
154p	748p Highland Dist	22p to 122p	Bid referred to Motips Commission
123p	50p John Brown	8p to 59p	Pt warning
162p	105p Macartney Pharm	12p to 105p	Half-time fall
303p	170p Muirhead	31p to 205p	Fin cut; pt drop

Insurance

When permanent ill health strikes...

With increasing medical knowledge, many people who in the past might have died are being kept alive although they are unable to return to work. They can no longer provide for their families and they are likely to be a drain on the family finances.

For this reason, quite apart from any life assurance arrangements, you should have what is generally known as permanent health insurance. If your employer offers it as part of an employee benefit package, so much the better.

In a group permanent health scheme, employees can relax in the knowledge that should there be any health disaster there will be an income maintained in the same way as earnings for tax purposes until normal retirement age. What is more, companies usually increase the cover so that pension contributions for somebody who is disabled are maintained. This means that when one set of benefits ceases a reasonable pension replaces it.

Some employers may need lobbying. A good starting point is to approach those concerned with the pension arrangements or who sit on management com-

mittees. Alternatively, trade unions are now taking greater interest in employee benefits.

Failing this, you can make your own PPI arrangements, although premiums do not qualify for tax relief. And it will cost more for obviously cheaper.

For example, you can arrange this cover on a group basis.

Normally, insurers will not give benefits which, together with state benefits, provide more than 75 per cent of an individual's average earnings.

Even so, various changes have been made because there have been cases where some people have continued to receive an income from their occupation (whether as an employee or controlling director of a small family business).

Insurers dislike the idea of any one making a "profit" in that way, which is understandable.

One of the leading insurers for individual business, Friends' Provident Life Office, has introduced a new policy which says that continuing income must be taken into account in calculating the maximum benefit—so that the insured benefit simply acts as a "top-up".

For example, if you are 30 and need cover of £100 a week, running to the age of 65, the annual premium would be £154 with a waiting period of four

weeks, or £86 if you have a waiting period of 26 weeks. If you are 40 you pay more—£215 or £125, respectively.

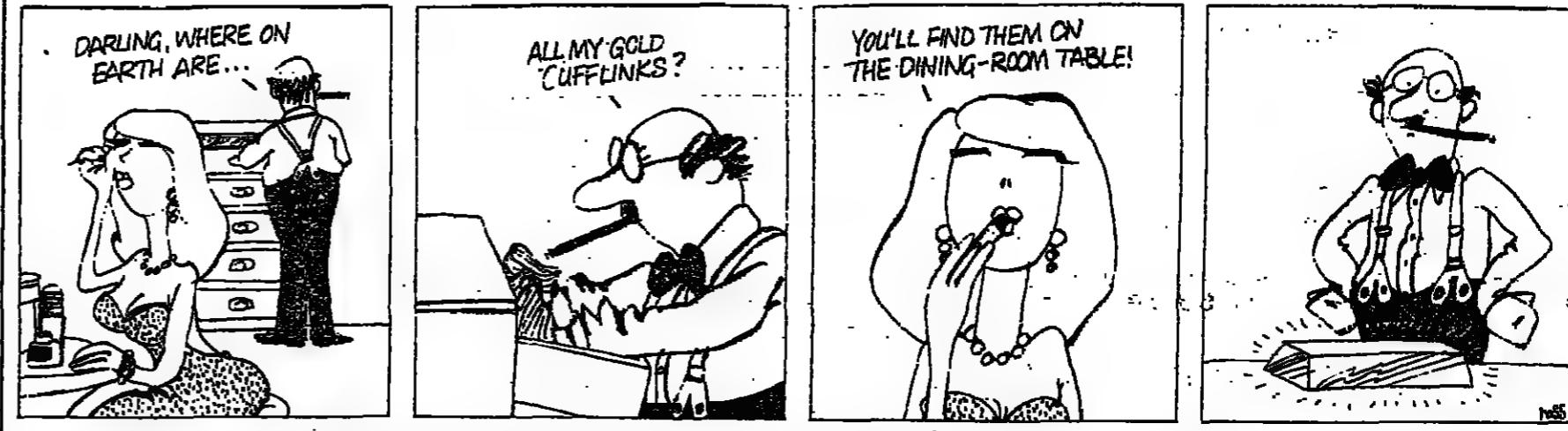
For anyone earning more than £10,000 a year, NEL Permanent Health Insurances has introduced a special policy. Initially, the benefit is restricted to half gross annual earnings (when the benefit is tax-free), once the benefit has been paid for a full year there is an increase of 50 per cent from the following May. This avoids paying premiums for more benefit than is really needed in the early months.

For anyone who arranges his own permanent health insurance the tax aspect is patently unfair: no relief of tax can be claimed on the premiums because there is no life cover, but the benefits count for tax purposes as investment income.

Fortunately, the Inland Revenue does make one concession. The benefits are free from tax altogether, until they have been paid for continuously for a full fiscal year.

But, unfair as the tax aspect may be, it is an excuse for not arranging adequate cover.

John Drummond

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH**When a solicitor stays silent • Car sharing**

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Eric Brunet, John Drummond, Vera Di Palma and Ronald Irving

giving him 14 days to inform you of the up-to-date position, failing which the matter will be referred to the Law Society.

Because of the high cost of petrol and generally running a car, three of us need to travel into Winchester each day to have decided to share transport. Since I live the furthest out it seems logical for me to use my car most of the time rather than for the three of us to take it in turns to give a lift to the others. If, however, I accept cash from the other two, will this prejudice my insurance in any way? (J.W., Winchester.)

That would have been the case some years ago. Fortunately, insurers have appreciated the situation and, as long as the payments which you receive represent no more than a fair contribution to the overall running expenses of the car, you will be in the clear. You would, however, be prejudicing your insurance if you accepted a figure which provided you with a profit.

Earlier this year I let my house. A number of problems have arisen since my return and I am considering taking legal action against my ex-tenant. However, the sum involved is not great and I may decide that it's not worth the trouble. One factor involved is

my tax position. The principal items under dispute are:

- (1) telephone, gas and electric bills amounting to about £120;
- (2) some tools, left for the use of the tenant which disappeared—total value about £50;
- (3) some wine left in store, which disappeared total value about £30.

Against these items I retain his furniture deposit of £150.

My question is:

- (a) suppose I abandon the case, leaving me out of pocket (on my figures, which he challenges) by £100. Can I set this sum against the rent he paid for tax purposes?

That would have been the case some years ago. Fortunately, insurers have appreciated the situation and, as long as the payments which you receive represent no more than a fair contribution to the overall running expenses of the car, you will be in the clear. You would, however, be prejudicing your insurance if you accepted a figure which provided you with a profit.

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would think there is no hope at all for the legal expenses.

I count as being self-employed and have a personal pension policy. With part of the money which could go to the pension, I am buying term assurance because I can also obtain full relief of income tax (at my top rate) on the premiums. My problem is that this cover ceases at the age of 75. It looks as though I shall need cover beyond that date, but, presumably by then it would be too late to do anything about it. Is there anything I could be doing? (D.W., Manchester.)

It is fortunate that you are not the original purchaser under the conveyance in which the mistake was made. Certainly the trustees could have applied for rectification of the conveyance as against your predecessor if his right to use the gardens was granted by mistake. However, since you are a purchaser for value without notice of their mistake your family's right to use the gardens cannot now be extinguished and you are entitled to a key.

I am the owner of an aging Fiat motor car, and am beginning to find spare parts expensive and difficult to obtain. For some months past, an identical Fiat has been abandoned in the woods by the canal below our house. It has deteriorated very considerably, but certain parts of it would be useful as spares, if I were permitted to salvage them from the wreck. I have made numerous enquiries as to ownership of the vehicle, but without success. Is there any way I could be permitted to remove parts of the vehicle, which are still serviceable? (REB, Woking.)

Under the Theft Act, 1968, appropriation of property is not to be regarded as dishonest. If you appropriate it in the belief that the person to whom the property belongs cannot be discovered by taking reasonable steps. By making enquiries locally as to ownership, it seems that you have taken reasonable steps, but to put the matter beyond any doubt, contact the local police station to see if they have any information as to ownership.

FRAMINGTON

Extra Income

A new unit trust with a 10.5% yield. Until February 7 the initial charge is only 3 1/4%.

EXTRA Income Trust will aim for a gross yield two percentage points above that of our existing Income Trust.

At the time of going to press this was 8.51%; the estimated gross starting yield of **EXTRA Income Trust** is therefore 10.51%.

The managers will also aim for growth of both income and capital. They believe that this is a good time to invest. From their experience, high yielding shares bought now will do particularly well when the expected fall in interest rates begins.

Although past experience is not necessarily any guide to future performance, intending investors will wish to know about our two previous UK unit trusts. (Our other three are low yielding international funds.)

Income Trust was launched on 31 December 1971. By 31 December 1979 the offer price of units had risen 117%, compared with 19% for the FT All-Share Index. Net income from an original investment of £100 had risen from £27.80 in 1972 to £130 in the last year and totalled £582; by comparison, £1000 in a typical High Street cash deposit would have given less income (£553) and the capital would still be only £1000, while the Income units could be cashed in for £2052.

Capital Trust, which seeks only an average yield, is up 208% since it started in January 1969, compared with 27% for the All-Share Index. It is in the top ten of all unit trusts over 3, 5, 7 and 10 years. An investment of £1000 at launch has given £450 net income.

Investors should recognise that investing for extra yields may involve a reduction in long term growth potential. Nevertheless, the managers intend to invest for growth. They will select high yielding good quality equities, avoiding preference and other fixed interest stocks and concentrating on UK shares.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Investment in a unit trust should be regarded as long term. Investors should put short-term money in a bank, building society or other cash deposit.

Units in **Framlington EXTRA Income Trust** are 50p each until 12 noon on Thursday 7 February. The minimum investment is 600 units, which cost £3

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Season tickets

Company credit for the rail commuter

The latest swinging 20 per cent increase in commuter train fares is another blow for London's estimated 400,000 commuters—and there is little they can do about it.

They have to travel to work and now they will pay perhaps £500 a year in fares in order to do so. This has come to neart from their post-tax income.

But if one takes an average commuter journey, from Sevenoaks, Kent, to London, there are no fewer than six methods of paying for the daily return trip, some of which provide large savings over the standard

An ordinary second-class return now costs £3.38—that is £3 a year if you travel five days a week for 48 weeks. But that, of course, is not the way to do things. The man who

can start his journey after 9.30 am and fit his work to the restrictions which surround the use of the off-peak ticket, need pay only £1.85 a day. This amounts to £444 a year and is the cheapest way of all to pay for the trip.

This is an excellent argument for more "flexi-time" or staggered hours working, but unfortunately most people as yet work 9.30 am to 5.30 pm, when the choice must be the season ticket, that colour-coded piece of paste-board, which by the way is not transferable (and there are heavy fines for misusing it).

The tariff for season tickets varies according to the period which they cover. For someone travelling from Sevenoaks, a weekly season costs £13.30, or £638.40 a year; a monthly season is £50.90 (£559.90 a year); a quarterly £146.50 (roughly



Photograph by John Manning
The morning rush at Waterloo Station yesterday. London's commuters have had to cope with frequent price increases and need to make the most of the cheap day return and season ticket facilities available.

£537 a year) and a yearly £528. This compares with £811 a year when paying the full ordinary fare.

The yearly season ticket obviously represents a large saving, but you need to be able to lay your hands on the cash to pay for it in the first place. That is a snag. If you were, for instance, to take out a personal loan to cover the sum at 11.5 per cent flat (22.63 per cent true) over a year from the bank, the yearly season ticket would attract £60.2 interest and the total cost would be more than when buying your ticket monthly.

What you must look for is a fair godmother prepared to advance the money either at a low interest rate or free of interest—and they do exist among the more enlightened employers both large and small.

The most common formula is when companies advance the annual cost of a season ticket, for trains or tubes, interest-free to any staff member who has been with them for more than six months. The repayment money is then deducted in 12 equal monthly instalments from the employee's salary cheque.

The system, described by the Inland Revenue as a "benefit in kind", is therefore quite simple.

The great majority of the loans are interest-free and are offered both by large and small companies as a way of easing their staff's fare burden.

Such loans can, however, attract tax. People earning under £8,500 need not worry, as the higher wage earners attract £47.50 at the "official" 9 per cent. As he is under the

£50 limit, he can disregard the figure from the tax point of view, whatever he earns.

In fact, a loan from an employer—the cost of the annual ticket—would have to exceed £555.50 before the higher wage earner would be liable for income tax, and even then the liability would be small.

If your employer therefore is one of those who has not yet introduced a loan scheme for fares—and such schemes have spread rapidly over the past four years—why not suggest it?

That is, unless you live close enough to walk to work or fancy the awesome alternative of moving further into town—or are one of those railway employees who travel free.

Roger Beard

SEVENOAKS-LONDON FARE COSTS

Second class ticket	Rate	Cost per year*
Ordinary return	£3.38	£11.20
Weekly season	£13.30	£638.40
Monthly season	£50.90	£559.90
Quarterly season	£146.50	£537.00
Annual season	£288.00	£1,152.00
Off-peak, cheap day return	£1.85	£446.50 (roughly)

* Assuming five return trips a week for 48 weeks.

† Subject to travel restrictions during peak periods.

Building societies

Guaranteed home loans

Not many years ago home loan "sharks" used to con young couples into taking out expensive life assurance policies which, they were told, would ensure them a mortgage when they wanted to buy a house. It was so much nonsense, of course; the only people who can promise a building society loan in the future are building society branch managers and even they usually find it prudent to avoid such a firm commitment.

But Bradford & Bingley Building Society duly understand that many prospective housebuyers would love to have such an assurance. It has just launched a novel and welcome Homebuilder Account which guarantees a mortgage after two years equal to four times the balance in the account.

The minimum initial investment is £500 and thereafter regular monthly investments of between £80 to £250 are required. The snag is that instead of earning 10.5 per cent (15 per cent gross), these savings only attract interest of 7 per cent (10 per cent gross).

The level of a mortgage guarantee will be quite large indeed, at the top end of the savings scale it could

actually exceed the special advanced limit of £25,000. A couple hoping to embark upon home ownership in two years' time with £500 to start a Homebuilder account and prepared to save £100 a month know that they will be able to borrow more than £11,000—the size of the present average advance. A saving of £200 a month means that a home loan of £22,884 will be forthcoming two years later.

The scheme is fairly flexible. The initial investment is not restricted to £500; whatever amount you start with will be included in the total for determining the amount lent. Nor are there any strict rules about the sum saved monthly, provided that it is at least £80 and not more than £250. A windfall in excess of £500 would be carried forward to the next month.

The doors open for investors in this scheme on February 1 and it will be interesting to monitor the response. Will prospective housebuyers be willing to sacrifice the loss of interest in return for the guaranteed future loan? My guess is that the "loss" of one-third of the interest (the rate on Homebuilder accounts is variable, but will never be less than two-thirds the prevailing share rate) will be countered only a small penalty.

MS

The Alliance Fixed Rate Bond, the first of its kind from a major building society, offers interest at 11.5 per cent, equivalent to 16.43 per cent for basic rate taxpayers. Whatever happens to building society interest rates in the course of this year, the return on the bond will not change.

The money is tied in, however, until the end of the year, when investors will be given the option of converting to a new fixed interest rate.

The minimum investment is £500 and the maximum £15,000.

MS

Grouse

What is the Government going to do about that virtually inflation-proofed tax stamp duty? In 1978-79 the yield from stamp duty was £120m; this tax year, the estimated revenue will be about £225m—also because of soaring house prices.

It is bad enough for first-time buyers to have to compete with the inexorable rise in house prices and higher mortgage interest charges without having to fork out for this inequitable rubber stamp—quite literally—of a tax.

The worst aspect is that it is precisely those rising prices which are benefiting the Revenue which is dragging more and more people into this tax net. The threshold for charging stamp duty at the lowest rate is £15,000—whereas the average national price of houses is now over £22,000. Even in regions such as Yorkshire, Humberside and Wales, where house prices have lagged behind, the average price is now over £15,000.

At the very least the threshold level should be raised. The Centre for Environmental Studies has recently suggested a starting point of £20,000, but arguably even this is too low, and would still catch more people than were ever intended.

There is a strong case for tying the stamp duty threshold to the national average price of houses and thereafter indexing it so that it rises in line with house prices.

It seems nonsensical for the Government to pity the plight of first-time buyers and not take at least the one simple step on hand to alleviate it. Every little helps: every housebuyer will con-

GILTS

With Minimum Lending Rate at its present all-time high of 17%, an outstanding opportunity exists to invest in gilt-edged stocks to achieve a high rate of interest immediately and anticipate substantial capital growth when interest rates fall.

23rd September 1974 up to 18th January 1980, much better results than the Gilt Market as a whole or other forms of interest bearing investments, such as a building society.

GILTS FTA Govt All Stocks Index (adjusted to include net reinvested income)	+54.5%
BUILDING SOCIETY Including net reinvested interest*	+45.2%
VANBRUGH FIXED INTEREST FUND +82.7%	

*B.S.A. recommended rate, for paid-up share account.

Now is the time to take action

The Vanbrugh Fixed Interest Fund offers you an investment where prospects of capital growth are high. Moreover, it allows you to withdraw a tax free income and exchange your present share or gilt portfolio on very favourable terms.

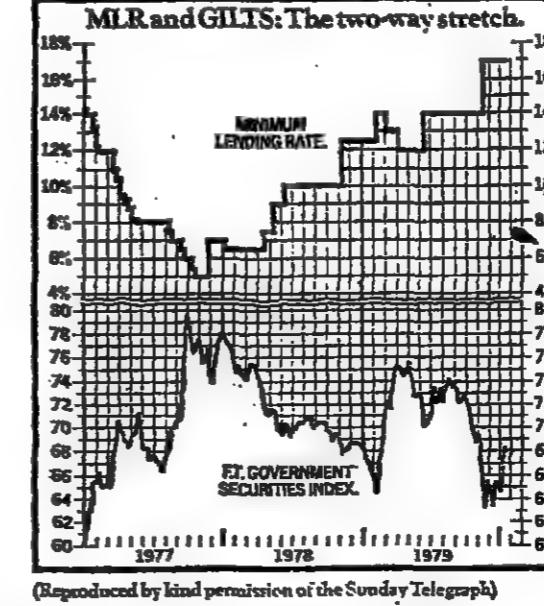
It is doubtful if you will find a more attractive investment opportunity in 1980. So send us the coupon now for more information.

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(Reproduced by kind permission of the Sunday Telegraph)

This graph clearly illustrates how fluctuating interest rates over the past 3 years have produced dramatic changes in the value of gilts.

THE VANBRUGH FIXED INTEREST FUND is an actively managed portfolio of gilt-edged stocks and deposits in short-term money markets, designed to enable the private investor to obtain significantly better returns than from directly held gilt-edged or other fixed interest investments such as local authority loans.

The Fund is managed by the Prudential, the country's largest investing institution and acknowledged specialists in this highly technical market. The table following shows how through expert professional management the Fund has achieved, since its inception on



Vanbrugh
A member of the Prudential Group

One Year Income Bond

18.10% p.a.

net of basic rate tax

equivalent to 25.86% p.a. gross

YOUR OPPORTUNITY to join the thousands of investors who are benefiting from the guaranteed income Bond funds available from Liberty Life.

GUARANTEED RETURN OF CAPITAL in full at the end of 1 year. If you should die before the end of the year, your capital will be paid to your estate.

ANNUAL PREMIUM ENDOWMENT assurance, which qualifies for premium tax relief. At the end of the year, the single premium policy matures and the guaranteed maturity value is paid to you, plus the endowment assurance and your income payment. The endowment assurance is then surrendered to return your capital in full. The payment of the annual premium is arranged for you in the application form below. Your single investment covers the single premium policy and the endowment policy.

FOR THE HIGHER RATE TAXPAYER the Bond provides particularly attractive returns. The net return for a taxpayer is 16.31% p.a. for a taxpayer.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

John Brown in £35m bid for US machinery group

By Philip Robinson
Engineering giant John Brown launched a surprise £35m agreed takeover bid for American plastics and textile machinery group Leesona Corporation yesterday, designed to provide the United Kingdom group with its long-awaited fourth arm.

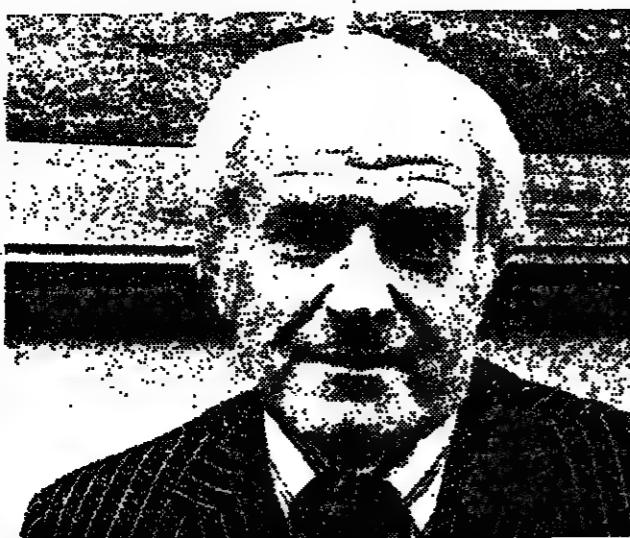
The group unveiled the bid as it gave its own shareholders a 20 per cent interim dividend increase and said that group profits for the year are likely to fall £10m to £18m. The news knocked 10p from the share price which later rallied to be 7p down on the day at 59p.

John Brown, whose process plant and gas turbine operations have come under increased competition this year is offering Leesona shareholders 540 a share, matching the American group's asset value, and will be raising £80m on a floating rate term loan, the details of which will be disclosed to shareholders in the next few days.

The offer compares with a Leesona price of £32 at suspension but a price before the shares were chased up by speculative demand of £25. At the offer price this gives Leesona an exit p/e ratio of 10. But John Brown's offer could spark a bid battle in the United States.

From his head office in Warwick, Rhode Island, Leesona's President and Chief Executive Mr Robert C. Page said: "We have had other takeover approaches in the past and one in the past six months from a Swiss bank. Walco's reaction to the Brown bid has not yet been tested."

Leesona's total debt is put by Mr Page at 520m against shareholders' funds of 560m. Pre-tax



Mr J. R. Mayhew-Sanders, chairman of John Brown.

profits in 1978 were around £10m which were forecast to rise last year to £14m.

The American group has been looking for a suitor for some time. Mr Page said they asked J. Henry Schroder Wag, Brown's merchant bankers, to sound out United Kingdom companies about taking an equity stake and from this John Brown which already has close trading links, began discussions.

Mr Page said: "John Brown can offer us much broader markets in Red China, South Africa and Ned China. For its money, John Brown says it is getting one of the world leaders in plastics machinery, an industry it has admitted it cannot get right in the United Kingdom."

Brown's chairman, Mr John Mayhew-Sanders, said: "If we succeed we will be getting a company which has high technology and a profitably well-found business. Our conclusion, we intend to create a Leesona division of John Brown managed from Warwick and include all existing plastics machinery and paper converting interest in a new division."

The new group would bring the turnover from American offshoots to around \$300m.

But one of its other United States companies, Crawford and Russell, bought for \$25 million last March, has after a good start suffered postponed and canceled orders which will bring its profit contribution significantly lower than last year.

J & J Dyson holds firm thanks to exports

By Alison Mitchell

Dunoon up by exports and a recent diversification into ceramics, refractories manufacturer J. & J. Dyson is weathering the downturn in the steel industry and, in the first half of the current year, managed to maintain profits at last year's level.

In the six months to September 30, 1979, the group turned in £1.1m pre-tax on turnover only slightly higher at £18m.

And chairman Mr Gerald Lomas reports that the full-year total will probably equal last year's £2m.

However, the steel strike is already posing problems. The chairman reports that stocks are building up on the refractories side as the group keeps on its workers despite the fact

MacKinnon sinks to loss after change in fashion

MacKinnon of Scotland, the Cambuslang knitwear manufacturer, plunged into losses of £138,000 in the year to October 31. The results compared with pre-tax profits of £401,000 in the previous 12 months.

Yesterday, the group gave no explanation for the autumn.

However, in the autumn, when losses amounted to £37,000, pre-tax chairman Mr Kenneth H. MacKinnon blamed fashion changes for the poor performance.

He said that as a Shetland wool producer MacKinnon had been hit by the change in demand towards lambs wool goods and was also facing intense competition from cheap imports.

However, Mr MacKinnon added that he expected the second half of the year to show a slight improvement.

The year-end loss is reduced to £70,000 as a result of tax credit of £57,000 and leave losses per share of 45p compared with previous earnings of 5.85p.

The final dividend has been passed. Last year the group paid a total of 2.6p gross.

The group states that reserves have been increased by £150,000 by a prior year adjustment

Plea to local authorities

A further call for simpler and better presentation of local authority spending has come from the accountancy profession.

The call comes from Mr John Purcell, a partner in the firm of Robson Rhodes, and it follows a response from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales to a con-

sultation document from the Department of the Environment about the publication of financial information by local government.

The priorities at the present should be to improve and simplify the presentation of financial information in a format to be used by all local authorities.

Texaco doubles income in year

White Plains, NY—Texaco Inc—reports more than doubled consolidated worldwide net income for 1979 of \$1.759m or \$6.48 per share. Net income for 1978 was \$852.46m, or \$3.14 per share. Results for 1979 included foreign currency translation gains of \$52.1m, compared with losses of \$10.5m for 1978.

Net income for the fourth quarter of 1979 was \$533.92m, or \$19.17 per share. Fourth-quarter net income in 1978 reached \$328.26m (\$1.21).

Fourth-quarter 1979 results included foreign currency translation gains of \$38.1m, compared with losses of \$12.2m for the 1978 period.

Net income attributable to operations in the United States for 1979 was about \$674.2m. This represented an increase of \$257.8m or 61.9 per cent over 1978.

Superior Oil

Houston—Superior Oil Co is proceeding to acquire all the shares of Canadian Superior Oil held by shareholders who did not accept Superior's offer last year. This offer expired on January 2 and under it 90 per cent of Canadian Superior's shares, not previously held by Superior or its associates or affiliates were acquired. Under Canadian law this enables Superior to acquire the rest of the shares. —AP—Dow Jones.

Sanyo Electric

Tokyo—Sanyo Electric expects its after-tax profit for the 1980 business year ending next March to increase by about 32 per cent to 20bn yen from 15.15bn yen last year, on sales of 670bn yen, up from \$84.65bn. The anticipated rise follows increased sales of audio and home-heating equipment, at home and improved export profitability following the yen's depreciation against the dollar. —Reuter.

Messina

Johannesburg—Messina (Transvaal) Development expects improved trading results for the year ending September 30, the chairman Mr Harold F. P. Grenfell said.

He told the annual meeting

that prospects for higher copper prices are good and, combined with the turnaround in the outlook for the motor industry, which is now in an upward phase, profit should be higher than the pre-tax level of R15.97m in the year ended September 30.

Retail sales in the company's Datsun vehicle division were 10 per cent up in the first quarter. —Reuter.

International

Atlantic Richfield Co expects to report that earnings per share for 1979 topped analysts' most optimistic estimates of \$9.25 a share, Mr Thornton F. Bradshaw, president, told AP-Dow Jones.

In 1978, Arco reported net income of \$804.3m, or \$6.50 a share, on revenue of \$12.74m. Mr Thornton Bradshaw said revenue for the latest year would be in the range of \$15,000m to \$16,000m.

Industrie Pirelli

Milan—Industrie Pirelli SPA sales rose 25 per cent in 1979, to one trillion lire and the company hopes that 1979 losses will be below the 2.57 billion lire deficit made in 1978. Industrie Pirelli, in which Dunlop Holdings of the UK has a minority stake, is the main Italian SPA. Its 1978 net loss was reduced to 2.2 billion lire by extraordinary gains from the sale of its Milan office building which it is leaving this month. —Reuter.

Singer loss

New York—Singer's 1979 loss was due to a £130m provision established in the third quarter to cover the costs of a programme to restructure its North American and European sewing

machine manufacturing operations.

Singer said the reserve reduced earnings by £124m, after recognising \$6m of associated tax benefits. The company said realisation of additional tax benefits in the future depends on its ability to generate enough taxable income from the United States and certain European operations.

Singer said the reserve reduced earnings by £124m, after recognising \$6m of associated tax benefits. The company said realisation of additional tax benefits in the future depends on its ability to generate enough taxable income from the United States and certain European operations.

Thyssen

Duisburg—Thyssen AG, the West German steel company, said its worldwide consolidated net profit rose to Dm1.67m in the year ended September 30, 1979, from Dm1.00m—67 per cent.

Thyssen, by sales the largest steel group in Europe, also said that it is proposing to pay shareholders an unchanged dividend of Dm4.00 per share. Shareholders resident in West Germany are also to receive a tax refund of Dm2.25 per share, bringing the total payout to Dm6.25 for them. —AP—Dow Jones.

Getty Oil Co

Getty Oil Company of Los Angeles says the increase in the fourth quarter and 1979 net income reflected increased crude oil and natural gas prices.

The company said that for the fourth quarter domestic net income rose to \$140.8m from \$82.3m a year before and for 1979 increased to \$425.7m from \$250.7m in 1978.

Domestic net income for 1979 included \$28m from two new New York real estate properties.

Deutsche Shell

Deutsche Shell AG of West Germany expects profits for 1979 to rise to between Dm250m and Dm300m from Dm210m in 1978. —AP—Dow Jones.

Results in the chemical sector

improved considerably while profit from gas operations was unchanged, he said in Hamburg.

After the recent round of

petrol price increases Deutsche

Shell's oil business is breaking

even after operating at a loss in the fourth quarter of last year.

Pilkington Brothers

Sir Alastair Pilkington, director, has subscribed for 4,250 shares at £212,000 (£279,000). Interim dividend 1.4p gross (1.1p). Board believes results for year should stand comparison with those of last year.

Burt Eulton

Turnover for half year to September 30, £22.24m (£19.14m).

Stock markets

Equities firm as account closes 4pc higher

Equities ended the account on a firm note yesterday, despite further bleak news from the industrial front.

Gilts, however, were easier, although more stable, as the market made some attempt to digest the previous day's glut on new "taps" stocks.

Equities initially made a quiet start following the announcement from John Brown of a £35m United States acquisition which will be completed within 18 months, profitably less than had earlier been expected.

But after the initial shock, they gradually went better as institutional buyers decided to test the water.

Hopes that the steel talks at BSC might reach some settlement provided a further fillip so that by lunch-time most shares had regained earlier losses and had begun to press ahead. This coincided with the long-awaited release of bid terms for Decca from Racal, also reporting next week, unchanged at 25p.

The early announcement from John Brown that profits were going to be substantially

smaller than expected, despite recovering to finish 3p up on the day at 227p. After some thought, the market decided that Sir Edward Lewis had worked out favourable terms for Decca shareholders.

Elsewhere in electricals, GEC, still regarded as a possible rival for Decca, firmed up to 35p, but Multhead still remained from its previous figure of 30p.

Leading industrials showed small rises throughout the list, with most finishing at the top. Glaxo improved 5p to 483p with gains of 4p in Unilever at 289p and Beecham at 129p. Rises of one or two pence were noted in ICI at 376p, Fisons at 289p and Hawker Siddeley at 192p.

Reed International was active ahead of next week's figures, rising 7p to 195p, but BAT's also reporting next week, were unchanged at 25p.

Business proved to be brisk among television shares, there is still more to go for the plan to merge with the ordinary, while at the same time the ordinary go ex-scrip, at 1 for 7.

Second-jinters among the oils were strong after hours, with Lasme improving 25p to 406p, following the increased stake by Cavendish, while Siebens boosted by bid rumours leapt 54p to 656p. Among the majors BP was 4p off at 330p, while Shell rose 10p to 342p.

Gold shares finished the day mostly easier along with the gold price after a firm start to trading.

The Gold Share Index finished 4.2 off at 324.9, Anglo-American Gold fell 54 to 581 along with West Driefontein, \$1 to \$781 and Vintersport \$1 to \$131. Vast Reefs held firm at \$56 as did Midland Witts, at the cheaper end, at 380 cents.

Among London financials, RTZ climbed 15p to 402p, Selection Trust 10p to 668p, Schlesinger Gold remained firm, at 380p.

Properties were lower with MERC 5p higher at 184p, Gt Portland 5p better at 223p, Listed Securities 7p advanced at 287p, while Hammerson "A" leapt 20p to 225p.

In insurances, reports that Midland Bank had placed the remainder of its stake in Sage-wick Forces saw a 20 fall to 97p in the latter. Elsewhere among the composite, Commercial Union firmed up to 146p.

Equity turnover on January 24, was £123.805m (£17.233m gross). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were RTZ, Lissco, ICI, Rank, Premier, Con, Shell, Lonrho, Western Mining, Becham and Unilever.

white recent bumper profits

provided rises 2p to 32p in Ferguson Industrial and 9p to 136p in Australian Agriculture.

Institutional buying resulted in a firm spot among stores.

New-time buying boosted Grattan's which recovered 4p to 108p. Bid favourites House of Fraser advanced 7p to 145p and Debenhams 2p to 161p, while rises of 4p were reported in Boots at 165p and GUS "A" at 162p.

Burton ord. were unchanged.

Dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net

dividends by 1,428. Dividends are shown in £. Losses for 18 months.

Elsewhere in Business News dividends

are shown in £. Losses are shown in £. Losses are shown in £.

Firm close to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Feb 8. § Contango Day, Feb 11. Settlement Day, Feb

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES
Prices on this page are now supplied by
Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and
are the last prices available from London
stock market dealers yesterday evening.
Various indices produced by The Times
including the index of 150 industrial
stocks, are being reviewed and recalcul-
ated to cover the period of non-milli-
on share issues.

Law Report January 25 1980
Court of Appeal

Part-time teacher's fixed term contract

Wiltshire County Council v
National Association of Teachers
in Further and Higher Education and Another

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Ackner

Although a contract to perform a particular task or tasks, such as down trees, was a contract for a "fixed term", a contract to teach such courses as might be required during an academic session at a technical college was held to be a contract for a "fixed term" within the meaning of paragraph 5(2) (b) of Schedule 1 to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by employers, Wiltshire County Council, from the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Phillips presiding) ([1979] ICR 968) of their appeal from an industrial tribunal which had held, on a preliminary issue, that Mrs Lynne Guy, who had complained of unfair dismissal from her employment as a part-time teacher at the Swindon College of Further Education had been employed under a "fixed term" contract within the meaning of paragraph 5(2) (b).

Mrs Guy, who was a complaint of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, was employed in ten classes in the department of science and mathematics under Paragraph 5(2) (b) (see now section 63 (2) of the Employment Protection Act, 1978) provides: "An employee shall be treated as dismissed by his employer if, but only if, (a) he is employed for a fixed term, that term expires without being renewed under the same contract.

Mr Alexander Irvine, QC, and Mr Elizabeth Stables for the employers, Mr John Phillips, QC, and Mr Eldred Tabachnick for Mrs Guy and the association.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that Mrs Guy was a part-time teacher at Swindon Technical College, employed by Wiltshire County Council. Her services came to an end in 1977 because her work could be done by a full-time teacher. She had brought a claim for unfair dismissal or redundancy.

Everything depended on the nature of her contract and whether she was employed under a contract "for a fixed term" within the meaning of paragraph 5(2) (b). If her contract was for a "fixed term" she would have been dismissed and would have the appropriate remedy. If it was not, she would have had no remedy.

Mrs Guy had been a part-time teacher for some 10 years. Each year she had been offered employment for the next session. In that session she would be offered courses in the humanities. She had not been offered the principal stated by the Appeal Tribunal.

LODGE JUSTICE LAWTON, agreeing, said that the first task of the industrial tribunal and the Court of Appeal was to consider whether Mrs Guy was employed for a "fixed term" within the meaning of paragraph 5(2) (b).

One had to look at the contract in the matrix of the surrounding circumstances. The college had a large staff with 4,000 or 5,000 students. The principal had to decide when courses came to an end.

Mrs Guy had been employed by the college since 1969 on a session to session basis for the academic sessions beginning in September and ending at the end of June on the beginning of July.

The course was continuous.

It was an "offer of appointment" as an "offer of appointment for session 1976-77" and acceptance. Mrs Guy was to make herself available to the college for the session, and during that work she was to do certain work. In the course of time she had found that there were not enough pupils, the classes would cease. It was the principal who had to decide when the courses came to an end. But Mrs Guy was bound to work for the session. The fact that the course would be discontinued did not stop the contract being for a "fixed term".

But to say that it would be a "fixed term" contract even if it had been a contract to do specified work would be stretching the meaning of "fixed term" to the point of absurdity.

It was a "fixed term" contract to be followed. His Lordship agreed with Sirs' case.

LODGE JUSTICE ACKNER said that, like the industrial tribunal, with some hesitation he agreed that Mrs Guy had been employed for a "fixed term" starting at the beginning of the autumn and ending when the session ended in the summer. If, however, as had been contended, she had been employed for a particular task, namely, to teach courses of the length of which was not known, when the contract was made, she would not have been employed for a "fixed term".

Solicitors: Collyer, Bristow & Mr G. N. Clayton.

In re J. S. (a minor) (January 23) the working paper of the Law Commission referred to by Lord Justice Ormrod was Family Law Inheritance, not Family Law and Inheritance.

The Simon's Appeal Tribunal had agreed that decision had been given to put the case not only on the terms of the contract but on a wider basis. It said that a contract was a "fixed term" contract within the meaning of paragraph 5(2) (b).

Mr Justice Phillips, sitting at the beginning of the autumn term and ending on the last day of the summer term. Subject to "unforeseen circumstances" she bound herself to serve, for the whole of the academic session.

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